

Hafa Adai!

'Transfer medical referral to CHCC to lessen politicians' involvement' **PAGE 3**
WIC sets new income eligibility guidelines. **PAGE 5**

75¢

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WEDNESDAY MAY 19, 2021

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Move to amend Art. 12 shelved

» **Senate will no longer entertain initiative at Hofschneider's request**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate will no longer entertain a legislative initiative that proposes to amend Article 12 to remove the land alienation restriction in the CNMI after its author, Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), asked to have the measure shelved.



Hofschneider

Hofschneider, who introduced Senate Legislative Initiative 22-01, announced during a Senate session yesterday that he would like to ask Sen. See **MOVE on Page 4**

EXCEPT FOR TINIAN JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL

PSS graduations will all be drive-thru

» **Ada to graduates: 'Always do the right thing'**

By **IVA MAURIN**
CORRESPONDENT

Despite earlier appeals from Public School System students for a traditional graduation ceremony, all schools, except for the Tinian Jr./Sr. High School, will have to make do See **PSS on Page 4**

RELATED NEWS

■ MHS graduation on May 28 is now drive-thru event. **PAGE 2**

1 traveler tests positive

By **JUSTINE NAUTA**
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CORRESPONDENT

Another arriving traveler tested positive for COVID-19 last May 17, bringing the CNMI's total number of cases to 174.

According to a statement See **TRAVELER on Page 4**

King-Hinds mulls running for delegate

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds said yesterday that she is willing to consider running for the position of the See **DELEGATE on Page 4**

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 7pm, May 18, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population
Fully Vaccinated: **52%**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	20,760
Fully Vaccinated:	18,721
Moderna	
Initiated:	3,567
Fully Vaccinated:	2,750
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	177

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	8,103	6	8,109
Recovered	7,875	5	7,880
Active	84	6	90
Deaths	139	0	139
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	159,785		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	173	1	174
Traced via Travel Screening	137	1	138
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	26,131*		
Days since last community transmission	62		

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

TINIAN HARBOR PROJECT

TINIAN—Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4 and Marines assigned to 7th Engineering Support Battalion place concrete for a mooring bollard footer at the Tinian Harbor. The repair project enhances the Port of Tinian for future operations.

U.S. NAVY/CONSTRUCTION
MECHANIC 2ND CLASS
WENHAN FAN



INSIDE



BUSINESS

Are you still looking for a graduation dress? Look no farther than Sarah Fashion in Garapan.

PAGE 11



NATION

The U.S. will share an additional 20 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines with the world.

PAGE 12



ASIA

A powerful cyclone that emerged in the Arabian Sea makes landfall on India's western coast.

PAGE 13



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Local

MHS graduation on May 28 is now drive-thru event

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas High School's request for a face-to-face graduation for its seniors has been denied, according to an announcement to MHS seniors in a YouTube video uploaded

to MHS' official YouTube channel last May 17. It was previously reported that MHS will be holding an in-person, non-traditional graduation on May 28 at the CPA airport field.

In the announcement, MHS principal Jonathan Aguon clarified that, while the initial plans for the event were approved, after close assessment and consultation with Public School System leadership and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, it would prove difficult to ensure that the event's potential 300 graduates will all comply with COVID-19 safety protocols. As such, the transition into a drive-thru graduation was made for the community's safety. Aguon apologized for prior announcements of an in-person graduation ceremony.

"It was nice to have hope while it lasted. I am appreciative of our admins in that they tried their best to give MHS students a semi-traditional graduation. As long as we continue to be optimistic, we are going to be okay," said one

graduating senior from MHS.

"It's unfortunate...but I understand that it's for the safety of the community," said another graduating senior.

MHS vice principal Romolo Orsini said the shift from a face-to-face to a drive-thru graduation "should not shadow the achievements and success MHS has had this past school year," but "should be a testament that MHS is a pioneer of new possibilities, a community willing to rock the boat, and a family that continues to encourage and push each other to [be] their best selves."

Aguon wants MHS' seniors to know that the MHS leadership "worked hard and planned meticulously to make an in-person graduation possible" and that they will continue to serve the students through having "an unforgettable drive-thru graduation."

The graduation will still take place on May 28 at the CPA airport field, but will now begin at 2pm to account for traffic as the school's expected hundreds of seniors arrive in their vehicles.

Tech Trek creator launches research project on tourism

Oregon State University recently launched a research project to survey residents in various communities on their experiences with tourism in their towns. Behind the research is former Saipan resident and OSU professor Todd Montgomery.

Montgomery is currently the co-host of Tech Trek, a television show produced with Chris Nelson about the future of work and tourism. Tech Trek has aired in California, Oregon, Washington, and Hawaii. Episode 1 was shot in Tokyo and Episode 2 is currently in production.

OSU and Montgomery are now partnering with the Marianas Visitors Authority to gather residents' opinions on tourism. The goal of this survey is to explore resident attitudes of the industry and gauge the opinion of how it affects their lives.

"Todd is on the forefront of research, and we are happy to assist in getting feedback from our residents. The pandemic has been a great pause in the visitor industry around the world and I think all of

ON THE NET

https://oregonstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3WNX4aFtiP6mrdA

us are hoping to learn something in the interim and help make tourism more sustainable in the coming years," said Nelson, who is also on the board of the Marianas Visitors Authority.

The researchers want to hear directly from all stakeholders in the tourism industry—employees, business owners, indigenous populations, policymakers—on what you are currently experiencing and what you want to see in the future.

Monitoring resident sentiment toward the changing tourism industry is important to maintaining a mutually beneficial hospitality industry for residents and visitors alike. Resident attitudes toward the industry are also a good indicator of where the industry can make improvements in long-term sustainability.

In relation to the COVID-19
See MANGLONA on Page 4



CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

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School Year 2021 — 2022

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 **323-7446/664-3761**

 **hsehs@cnmipss.org**

*Early Head Start is currently only offered on Saipan.





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‘Transferring Medical Referral Program to CHCC would lessen politicians’ involvement’

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Tinian Mayor Efraim M. Atalig believes that transferring the Medical Referral Program from the Office of the Governor to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. would lessen the involvement of politicians in the decision-making process as to who and why a patient needs to be referred off-island.

In his testimony at a public hearing on Rota before the House Committee on Health and Welfare, Atalig also asked the Legislature to consider appropriating funds for dialysis equipment and personnel needed to operate a dialysis program on Rota.

The committee, which Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) chairs, held a public hearing on Rota last May 6 as part of hearings in the CNMI to review the Commonwealth’s medical referral program and examine how the program may be reformed to improve services, streamline costs, and enhance accountability.

Sablan also conducted a hearing on Tinian last May 10. She will hold a similar hearing on Saipan this Friday at 3:30pm in the House chamber. She will then continue the hearing next Wednesday, May 26, at 3:30pm in the same venue.

In his testimony, Atalig said that medical referral decisions would be better made by medical professionals.

May is Women’s Health Month

By **JUSTINE NAUTA**
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

May has been declared CNMI Women’s Health Month to focus on health promotion and empowering CNMI women to make healthier choices.

According to a statement from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., they will join the Woman’s Affair Office, the CNMI Women’s Association, and other partners by spreading information on women’s preventive healthcare services and related health promotion activities throughout this month.

CHCC said a non-communicable disease survey conducted in the CNMI in 2016 estimated that 12% to 17% of adult women have diabetes, a little over 50.9% are estimated to have high blood pressure, 19.2% of CNMI adult woman are estimated to have high cholesterol, and 17.9% between the ages of 21 to 65 year have never had a Pap exam screening for cervical cancer.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, diabetes, hypertension, and cancer—all non-communicable diseases—are responsible for seven out of 10

deaths worldwide. “With the burden of these diseases heavily impacting women who are often charged with the role of caring for children or other family members. It is never too early or too late for CNMI women of any age to make healthy changes to feel and look their best,” said CHCC.

In honor of National CNMI Woman’s Health Month, CHCC will be hosting Zumba sessions every Monday through Thursday at 6:30pm at the American Memorial Park. To register, visit www.bibaactive.com.

This comes soon after CHCC celebrated National Nurse Week last May 6 to 12.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres earlier said, “I want to give a shoutout to each and every single one of [our nurses] from the bottom of my heart. You guys make a big difference the way you handle patients.”

On behalf of his family and the CNMI, Torres extended his deep appreciation for doctors as well, and thanks them for choosing the CNMI as their home.

“No matter what that cost is, no matter what situation you are having at home, you come to the hospital and you give your 100%,” said Torres.

are housed, he said. Atalig said all referral employees are under the respective mayor’s offices, which is a major portion of the office’s budget.

Atalig said the notion that since government revenue from Rota is minimal, budget appropriation should be made accordingly, not minding that it is the obligation of the central government to provide equitable service to all CNMI citizens.

Atalig underscored the need to operate a dialysis program on Rota, saying that many of their interisland referrals are for dialysis on Saipan. He said those patients endure hardship because they have to leave their loved ones to undergo dialysis on Saipan.

“Most of these patients, if not all, prefer to spend the twilight years of their lives on their home island,” said Atalig.

He noted that the structure of this dialysis program is already in place. “I know that a dialysis progress is not cheap, but we cannot place a price tag on the value of having our unfortunate citizens feel that their leaders are concerned about their welfare,” Atalig said.



Atalig

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HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

IT IS THE POLICY OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEE, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, THAT THE NORTHERN MARIANAS TECHNICAL INSTITUTE PERSONNEL SYSTEM SHALL BE APPLIED AND ADMINISTERED ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLES OF EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AS DEFINED BY THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC LAW 6 - 10, REGARDLESS OF AGE, RACE, SEX, RELIGION, POLITICAL AFFILIATION OR BELIEF, MARITAL STATUS, DISABILITY OR PLACE OF ORIGIN. APPLICANTS FOR THIS POSITION MUST BE A U.S. CITIZEN OR IS ELIGIBLE AND AUTHORIZED TO WORK IN THE U.S., INCLUDING THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

CONTINUOUS & UNTIL FILLED JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Announcement #	Position/Title	Pay Level /Step	Per Annum	Minimum Requirements	Closing Date	Location
21-001	BUDGET ANALYST	16/01-06	\$33,512.32 - \$42,771.16	Associate's Degree and/or six (6) years of financial management experience OR Bachelor's Degree plus four (4) years of financial management experience.	May 19 – June 2, 2021	Lower Base, Saipan
21-002	ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER	09/01-06	\$23,816.58 - \$30,396.67	Associate's Degree and/or four (4) years of secretarial/office management experience.	May 19 – June 2, 2021	Lower Base, Saipan
21-003	FACILITIES & MAINTENANCE MANAGER	12/01-06	\$27,570.67 - \$35,187.94	Associate's Degree and/or six (6) years of supervisory/maintenance experience.	May 19 – June 2, 2021	Lower Base, Saipan
21-004	PROCUREMENT OFFICER	10/01-06	\$25,007.41 - \$31,916.50	Associate's Degree and/or four (4) years of management experience.	May 19 – June 2, 2021	Lower Base, Saipan
21-005	FISCAL SPECIALIST	11/01-06	\$26,257.78 - \$33,512.32	Associate's Degree and/or two (2) years relevant experience.	May 19 – June 2, 2021	Lower Base, Saipan
21-006	MARKETING SPECIALIST	09/01-06	\$23,816.58 - \$30,396.67	High School diploma or equivalent and/or two (2) years relevant experience OR Associate's Degree plus two (2) years relevant experience.	May 19 – June 2, 2021	Lower Base, Saipan
21-007	NETWORK SPECIALIST	09/01-06	\$23,816.58 - \$30,396.67	High School diploma or equivalent and/or two (2) years relevant experience OR Associate's Degree plus two (2) years relevant experience.	May 19 – June 2, 2021	Lower Base, Saipan
21-008	SUPPORT STAFF, FACILITIES	05/01-06	\$19,593.96 - \$25,007.41	High School diploma or equivalent plus one (1) year relevant experience OR Associate's Degree plus one (1) year relevant experience.	May 19 – June 2, 2021	Lower Base, Saipan
21-009	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	01/01-06	\$16,120.00 - \$20,573.67	High School diploma or equivalent plus one (1) year relevant experience.	May 19 – June 2, 2021	Lower Base, Saipan
21-010	STUDENT SERVICES COORDINATOR	15/01-06	\$31,916.50 - \$40,734.44	Associate's Degree plus six (6) years of relevant experience OR Bachelor's degree plus four (4) years of relevant experience.	May 19 – June 2, 2021	Lower Base, Saipan
21-011	ACCREDITATION & CURRICULUM OFFICER	18/01-06	\$36,947.34 - \$47,155.20	Bachelor's Degree plus four (4) years relevant experience OR Master's Degree plus two (2) years relevant experience.	May 19 – June 2, 2021	Lower Base, Saipan
21-012	HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER	17/01-06	\$35,187.94 - \$44,909.72	Associate's Degree plus six (6) relevant experience OR Bachelor's Degree plus four (4) relevant experience.	May 19 – June 2, 2021	Lower Base, Saipan
21-013	INSTRUCTOR (PART-TIME)	Ungraded	Ungraded	I – Associate's Degree or Certification in content area or related field plus six (6) years teaching experience. II – Bachelor's Degree in content area or related field plus four (4) years teaching experience. III – Master's Degree in content area or related field plus two (2) years teaching experience.	May 19 – June 2, 2021	Lower Base, Saipan

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN A DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTION WITH QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION FORMS AT THE NMTI HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT LOWER BASE, SAIPAN. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE ATTACHED TO COMPLETE APPLICATION FORMS: (1) COPY OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE; (2) TRANSCRIPTS/CERTIFICATIONS; (3) POLICE CLEARANCE (FROM PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR PAST SIX MONTHS); (4) VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT LETTER; AND (5) RESUME. COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE OR MAILED TO: NORTHERN MARIANAS TECHNICAL INSTITUTE, ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE, P.O. BOX 504880 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950, and TEL. #: (670) 235-6684. FREE COPY.

Senate unanimously OKs EITC bill

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate unanimously passed yesterday a House of Representatives bill that would repeal an existing CNMI law in order to make families eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit as a form of financial relief.

With all nine senators voting to adopt the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs' report that recommends passage, House Bill 22-19, House Draft 1 will now go to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres for his signature.

Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota)

praised Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) for introducing H.B. 22-19, which the senator described as a significant legislation. During these unprecedented times, Santos said, many families are suffering financially and will greatly benefit from any additional financial refunds, especially for lower income working families and individuals.

However, since EITC is fairly new to some, Santos hopes the Department of Finance Division of Revenue and Taxation can help inform people about it.

"I also hope that, upon transmis-

sion of the legislation, the administration will expeditiously sign the bill into law so those eligible families can avail of the financial benefits of this EITC," the senator said.

Members of the House unanimously voted to pass the bill last March.

Co-sponsored by several other lawmakers, H.B. 22-19 would restore the EITC for low-and moderate-income working families in the CNMI.

EITC is a refundable tax credit in the U.S. Internal Revenue Service Code that helps qualified low-to moderate-income working families and taxpayers get a tax break by al-

lowing them to use the credit to reduce the taxes they owe, and in some cases, increase their tax refunds.

Sablan earlier stated that the Department of Finance estimates that the value of the EITC to be approximately \$25 million.

The House voted "yes" to a floor amendment by Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) to include a subsection to ensure that only the EITC law is being considered and does not include other excess credits outside of the EITC.

67% of PSS now fully vaccinated

By **IVA MAURIN**
ivamaurin@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

More than half of the Public School System's personnel are now fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada disclosed yesterday that 67% of all PSS—staff and teachers—have now been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, with the remaining 33% being unvaccinated on medical and religious grounds.

While there is no mandate to have everyone vaccinated at PSS, similar to the mandatory vaccination issued for the Executive Branch in February, Ada stressed that everyone is encour-

aged to be vaccinated.

"We're trying to work with them and be respectful of their bodies. ... As much as I want to mandate—I do want to mandate—but we have to be mindful of others," Ada said, adding, "It's highly encouraged and highly recommended for all, teachers especially, to be vaccinated."

The commissioner said that they will be conducting another tally in July, where they set to specifically determine from staff their reasons for not getting vaccinated.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

Archaeologist welcomed at Rotary Club meeting

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Dr. Christopher King, archaeologist and owner of Pacific Bioarchaeology & Forensic Services, LLC, was welcomed as a guest speaker at the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting yesterday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Ballroom. King presented to the Rotarians his findings related to pre-Spanish contact NMI history through discovered artifacts.

Some topics that King presented

included a brief explanation of what the Pre-Latte, Transitional, and Latte Periods of the Marianas were, a look into what the societal structure and diets of these ancestral peoples were most likely to have been, clan burial clusters, and photos of artifacts he has previously unearthed.

For scholarly purposes, the "Latte Period" roughly refers to the time when the people of the Marianas started building house structures that were elevated on stone pillars, or latte. As such, the Pre-Latte period

was from about 1500 B.C. to 1000 A.D., the Transitional Period—a time period where the population began to increase and the people moved inland due to advancements in agriculture but before the building of lattes—was from 400 B.C. to 1000 A.D., and the Latte Period was from 1000 to 1668 A.D. The Spanish claimed the Marianas for Spain in 1565.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

MOVE

From Page 1

Justo S. Quitugua (R-Saipan), chairman of the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs, to file the initiative once and for all. In legislative lingo, "filing" a bill means settling it aside and not acting on it further.

Hofschneider said formal adoption on filing the legislative initiative will be made at the next session and the Senate will move forward from this issue. The legislative initiative was not included in yesterday's session calendar.

The Senate president told *Saipan Tribune* that, as he mentioned before, they would still bring the legislative initiative before the public in a hearing platform and hear their sentiment about the proposal.

He said based on the three presentations (hearings) so far, majority of those who testified prefer that they don't move forward with the proposed amendment to the CNMI Constitution.

The legislative initiative had proposed to allow landowners of Northern Marianas descent to fully exercise their real property rights, and

would have reduced the NMD percentage of ownership interest in an NMD corporation.

Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution restricts outright ownership of private land to persons of NMD. It is a provision unique to the CNMI.

At yesterday's session, Hofschneider said he introduced the initiative not to create chaos in the community but to give the ultimate definition of "private" land to the people. "I was offering an option and not an absolute mandate. I am a believer of individual rights on all fronts and that includes land," he added.

Hofschneider said that by reading and assessing the situation here in the CNMI, whereas all of the neighboring countries have advanced exponentially to achieve the highest form of economic prosperity, he thought that people should also consider the possibility of opening up to this challenge and be at par with the rest of the countries that the CNMI is associated with.

"It is unfathomable, to say the least, that our main source of income to sustain and carry forth our economy, which has been the main source of our economy for a number of years, will never be frustrated and impeded. Well, it happened," he said.

Hofschneider said it is his duty as a CNMI representative to look into ways to counter these "unfortunate circumstances" and try to find ways to generate economic interest not only within but from outside sources.

"Our land, air, and sea are our only assets to market other than our human resource," he said.

Hofschneider said that having seen the ups and downs of the CNMI economy in the last several years, he thought it's time to ask the people to consider this option and that was his purpose with the initiative—for the community to share their views on one of the most sensitive issues concerning private land.

He noted that the U.S. didn't become the most powerful nation in the world without compromising some of its assets. "It's a fact. Our nation's openness is our biggest asset. Free enterprise, constitutional rights for its people, an enormous sphere of influence etc.," the Senate president said.

He said this is the ingredient that made the nation the most powerful and most stable nation in the world.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

TRAVELER

From Page 1

from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. yesterday, the individual was confirmed positive for COVID-19 through testing on arrival last Monday. CHCC says the individual has been moved to the designated isolation area for monitoring.

The CHCC Communicable Disease Investigation/Inspection team has already initiated contact tracing for the most immediate contacts of the new case, including passengers

on the same flight.

As of 6pm, CHCC says the individual's COVID-19 vaccination status has yet to be verified.

COVID-19 in Guam

The Joint Information Center in Guam recently announced that CDC has changed Guam's travel risk to Level 4. This means that travelers should avoid all travel to Guam, but if they need to go there, CDC recommends getting fully vaccinated.

CDC says even if travelers are fully vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccine, they should still wear a

mask, stay 6 feet from others, avoid crowds, and wash their hands often.

In a statement from Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero, she says even if the travel risk has been upgraded, it shouldn't be seen as a setback in its recovery.

"Reopening our island is dependent on our ability to hold ourselves accountable. ... We know all too well how a single positive case can multiply into a cluster and the adverse effects on families, schools, and businesses," said Leon Guerrero. She added that COVID-19 protocols in Guam have not changed.

DELEGATE

From Page 1

U.S. delegate in next year's elections.

When asked about a poster with her photo and name with message "for U.S. Congress" circulating on social media, King-Hinds admitted that she saw it too.

"My phone is blowing up," she said.

The CPA chairwoman acknowledged she is indeed being asked to consider running for Congress but did not disclose who asked her to run

for the position.

"There are many people asking me to run, but I must first consult my family and friends," King-Hinds said.

King-Hinds was first elected CPA board chair in December 2018. At that time, she replaced longtime chair Jose R. Lifofoi. She is the first woman to chair the CPA board.

King-Hinds is a lawyer.

At the November 2020 general elections, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) ran unopposed for his seventh term in the U.S. House of Representatives.

PSS

From Page 1

with a drive-thru graduation this year.

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada shared this yesterday, adding that June 11 will be the last day of school, but then will be back by Aug. 18.

Kagman High School will be holding its graduation ceremony next Wednesday, May 26.; Dr. Rita H. Inos High School on Thursday, May 27; Marianas High School on Friday, May 28; Da'ok Academy the following Thursday, June 3; and Saipan Southern High School on Tuesday, June 8. Tinian Jr./Sr. High School graduates will have their ceremony next week, Tuesday, on May 25.

"This is a graduation that is one of its kind ever. Your story has been written. Congratulations and move on. Always remember three things. First, always pray. Second, read, and third, do the right thing, always do the right thing," Ada said, extending his well wishes to the Class of 2021 graduates.

In addition, looking back at the

school year that is about to end, Ada said that, based on their survey, the students have responded well, and are liking the "one day remote learning, and four day face-to-face" system, and that he is contemplating proposing that this "blended learning" method be continued.

"More and more research are also coming out, and even our own actual research here in the CNMI, that the special education population, they are responding more. Students are responding more in remote learning than they were with face-to-face," Ada said. "I attribute that to the autonomy, they have the freedom to be themselves, and not having anybody watching over them or being with them. They just like that space."

Ada said that they will be opening up the "face-to-face" for K-8, but for high school they are looking at doing the blended "one-day remote, four-day face-to-face" setup.

To comply with COVID-19 protocols on social distancing, PSS transitioned to blended learning last February, where students had both remote and classroom instruction.

TECH

From Page 2

pandemic, it is especially important to take residents' thoughts and perceptions into account before taking steps to welcome visitors back into the community.

The surveyors from the project are asking Northern Mariana Island residents to participate in their sur-

vey and share their experiences with the tourism industry. We encourage anyone that shares our interest in the betterment of the tourism industry to complete this survey. Once the research is completed the results will be shared with MVA

Those who complete the survey will also be eligible to win an Amazon Gift Card. Use the link to participate: https://oregonstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3WNX4aFtiP6mrdA. (PR)

WIC sets new income eligibility guidelines

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.’s CNMI Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children Program, more commonly known as WIC, announced new income eligibility guidelines yesterday.

WIC is available to the CNMI’s pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women; infants and children under the age of 5 who are at nutritional risk and who are at or below 185% of the federal poverty guidelines.

WIC Income Eligibility Table by Family Size Effective May 24, 2021

Family Members in Household	Yearly Household Income	Monthly Household Income	Twice-Monthly Household Income	Bi-Weekly Household Income	Weekly Household Income
1	\$23,828	\$1,986	\$993	\$917	\$459
2	32,227	2,686	1,343	1,240	620
3	40,626	3,386	1,693	1,563	782
4	49,025	4,086	2,043	1,886	943
5	57,424	4,786	2,393	2,209	1,105
6	65,823	5,486	2,743	2,532	1,266
7	74,222	6,186	3,093	2,855	1,428
8	82,621	6,886	3,443	3,178	1,589
Each Additional Member Add	+\$8,399	+\$700	+\$350	+\$324	+\$162

All WIC income eligibility guidelines are based on gross income—meaning before taxes or other deductions. A pregnant woman is considered two family members.

A person or certain family members who participate in other benefits programs—such as the Nutrition Assistance Program (food stamp or NAP) or Medicaid— automatically meet the income requirement.

To become a WIC client, call (670) 664-4084. For existing WIC clients who have an upcoming certification, it is important to maintain a working number to be reached at. If your number has changed, call WIC to update it.

Bring the following to your WIC appointment:

- Everyone who will be enrolling into the WIC Program
- Identification for adults (driver’s license, photo ID)
- Child’s identification (shot record, birth certificate, crib card)
- Proof of income (30 days of recent paystubs, Medicaid card, NAP card)
- Proof of address (mail from CUC, NAP card, map to residence)

WIC currently serves approximately 2,800 clients on Saipan, 135 on Tinian, and 126 on Rota.


For general inquiries about the WIC Program or eligibility, call (670) 664-4084. Stay informed and up to date with what is going on at WIC by visiting CNMI WIC’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/cnmi.wicprogram, or Instagram [@cnmi.wic](https://www.instagram.com/cnmi.wic). WIC is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. **(PR)**

Saipan native enters Class of 2025 Plebe Summer at USNA

ANNAPOLIS, Maryland—Kevin Kang, a graduate of Mount Carmel School in the Northern Mariana Islands, will begin six challenging weeks of basic midshipman training as part of Plebe Summer after being recently inducted into the U.S. Naval Academy Class of 2025.

Approximately 1,200 candidates are selected each year for the Academy’s “plebe” or freshman class, and each student is required to participate in Plebe Summer. Last year the Naval Academy received over 16,000 applications for the Class of 2025.


During this time, plebes have no access to television, movies, the internet or music, and restricted access to cell phones. They are only permitted to make three calls during the six weeks of Plebe Summer. The pressure and rigor of Plebe Summer is designed to help plebes prepare for their first academic year at the Naval Academy and the four years of challenge, which awaits them. As the summer progresses, the new midshipmen rapidly assimilate basic skills in seamanship, navigation, damage control, sailing, and handling yard patrol craft. Plebes also learn infantry drill and how to shoot 9 mm pistols and M-16 rifles. **(PR)**



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Honorable Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Honorable Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Department of Public Works (DPW) would like to notify the general public of the 4-Year Federal-Aid Highway Program Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP) Amendment-3.

A copy of the plan can be obtained at DPW Technical Services Division Highway Branch for review and comments. Written comments must be submitted directly to DPW TSD Highway Branch, 2nd. Floor Joeten Commercial Bldg., Beach Road (above First Hawaiian Branch) or via email to: lms.dpwtst@gmail.com and ldlcs.dpw@gmail.com no later than June 9, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

Should you have any questions regarding DPW TTIP, you may contact Ms. Lorraine S. Villagomez, Highway Administrator or Lauren Sanchez, Federal Program Coordinator at the Department of Public Works TSD Highway Branch at 234-9828.

The following are listed in the TTIP Amendment-3:

I. CNMI DEPARTMENT OF Public Works Technical Services Division HIGHWAY BRANCH 4-YEAR Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan: PROJECTS FUNDED BY: U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

Amendment 3

DISTRICT	VILLAGE	ROUTE NO.	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF WORK	FY2020 FEDERAL	FY2021 FEDERAL	FY2022 FEDERAL	FY2023 FEDERAL
ALL	ALL	FY	Highway Planning, Technology Transfer & Training Activities Program-	Admin	\$ 975,986.00	\$ 1,417,604.20	\$ 1,931,986.00	\$ 1,644,486.00
ALL	ALL	OJTSS	On The Job Training Support Services	Admin	\$ 37,500.00	\$ 37,500.00	\$ 37,500.00	\$ 37,500.00
ALL	ALL	NSTI	National Summer Transportation Institute	Admin	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
I	Songsong	10	Route 10 Drainage upgrade from Pinatang Park to CUC Power Plant - Phase II	PE-Design Construction			\$ 1,500,000.00	
I	Dugi	103	Route 103 - Roadway Improvements	PE Design			\$ 300,000.00	\$ 1,750,000.00
II	San Jose	202	Route 202 - Hazard Elimination	PE Design Construction		\$ 500,000.00		
II	San Jose	205	Route 205 - Road and Drainage Improvements	PE Design Construction		\$ 250,000.00	\$ 1,700,000.00	
III	Chalan Laulau - Garapan	30	Route 30 - Chalan Pale Arnold Hazard Elimination	PE ROW Construction CM			\$ 1,000,000.00	
	Chalan Laulau - Garapan	30	Route 30 - Installation of Traffic Light System	PE Design Construction CM		\$ 2,500,000.00		
III	As Perdido	32	As Perdido Road Safety Improvements	PE Design Construction CM-DPW			\$ 200,000.00	
III	Chalan Piao-San Jose	33	Beach Road Hazard Elimination Project, Phase 2	PE Design Construction CM		\$ 6,000,000.00 \$ 1,000,000.00		
III	Christo Rai - Micro Beach	33	Beach Road Hazard Elimination Project, Phase 4 - Roundabout	PE Design Construction CM			\$ 1,000,000.00 \$ 200,000.00	
III	Dandan	35	Route 35 - Airport Road Improvement	PE Design Construction CM-DPW	\$ 2,500,000.00			
III	Obyan	302/304	Naftan Road and Flametree Road Improvements	Env. Update Construction CM	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 3,000,000.00 \$ 300,000.00		
III	Capitol Hill	310	Route 310 Tapochao Road and drainage Improvements	PE Design Construction CM	\$ 500,000.00		\$ 2,500,000.00 \$ 300,000.00	
III	Gualo Rai	317	Route 317 - Gualo Rai Road and Drainage Improvements	PE Design Construction CM-DPW			\$ 1,500,000.00	
	Island-Wide		Island-Wide Hazard Elimination, Saipan	Construction			\$ 1,050,000.00	
		31/307	Hazard Elimination-Intersection of Chalan Msgr. Guerrero and Chalan Tun Antonio Apa	Construction		\$ 200,000.00		
		34	Kagman Traffic Road Repair	Construction		\$ 250,000.00		
TOTAL OBLIGATION					\$ 4,053,486.00	\$ 15,475,104.20	\$ 13,239,486.00	\$ 3,451,986.00
Estimated Carry Over Prior Fiscal Year TOTAL:					\$ 603,225.00	\$ 20,813,805.99	\$ 9,382,001.79	\$ 185,815.79
FMIS Unobligated Funds (Closed-Out Projects/De-obligated Funds)					\$ 20,220,766.99	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
OJTSS/NSTI					\$ 57,500.00	\$ 57,500.00	\$ 57,500.00	\$ 57,500.00
Annual Allocation:					\$ 3,985,800.00	\$ 3,985,800.00	\$ 3,985,800.00	\$ 3,985,800.00
TOTAL ALLOCATION (not including other funds)					\$ 24,867,291.99	\$ 24,857,105.99	\$ 13,425,301.79	\$ 4,229,115.79
TOTAL OBLIGATION (not including other funds)					\$ 4,053,486.00	\$ 15,475,104.20	\$ 13,239,486.00	\$ 3,451,986.00
FISCAL ALLOCATION TO HQ not including other funds)					\$ 20,813,805.99	\$ 9,382,001.79	\$ 185,815.79	\$ 777,129.79
TOTAL ALLOCATION - other (ER, Special Funds, etc.)								

May 17-21 is 'Service Members Appreciation Week' at PSS

The Board of Education of the Public School System has declared the week of May 17-21 as "Service Members Appreciation Week" to honor and extend the school district's appreciation to the 63 men and women of the U.S. armed forces who are also its employees.

In a ceremony held Monday at the Charley's Cabaret of Pacific Islands Club Saipan, BOE members, PSS leaders, lawmakers, and other officials highlighted the important roles that these service members play within PSS. These service members are employed as program directors, Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps instructors, Leadership Corps instructors, classroom teachers, and teacher aides on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota's public elementary, middle and high schools.

"Many of us civilians and educators have never walked in your shoes as service members. We don't know or we can only imagine your life as service members. ... On behalf of the CNMI Public School System, we appreciate all that you do and have done for us," said Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada.




Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada hails the contributions of service members working for the Public School System, as Board of Education members, education leaders, and lawmakers listen.




Associate Commissioner of Education Eric Magofna, Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada, and Board of Education chair Andrew L. Orsini announce the arrival of six new buses/vans, five of which will be given to the individual JROTC units of Kagman High School, Marianas High School, Saipan Southern High School, Tinian Jr. Sr. High School, and Rota's Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr. Sr. High School.

PSS

PSS



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21 – 043

Opening Date: May 11, 2021 • Closing Date: May 24, 2021

POSITION TITLE: DEPARTMENT: LOCATION: ANNUAL SALARY: CONTRACT: POSITION(S):	Engineer Water & Wastewater Division Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA \$40,084.00 to \$54,113.00 per annum, Exempt Contracted Two (2)
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The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief Engineer or his/her designee. Position is assigned to both routine and simple water and sewer facilities and projects.

Duties:

- To perform field measurements for distance, elevation, flows, pressures and other elements related to water and sewer system designs, including configuration of water/sewer facilities, utilizing surveying equipment and GIS system.
- Design size and length of water mains, capacity (pumping rate and head) of booster stations, size, slope, and distance of sewer gravity mains and force mains, size, pumping capacity, and liquid level control of Lift stations.
- Design drawings to portray facilities to be constructed based on completed design and specification preparation for water systems and water sources, transmission and distribution pipelines and storage tank, including wastewater systems and facilities sewer lines, sewer pumping stations and treatment plants.
- Writes reports for engineering feasibility analysis, evaluations, such as water and wastewater flow, well production, water loss, electrical consumption, system hydraulics.
- Prepare scopes of work for a variety of A&E consultant services related to existing and proposed water and sewer systems; Analysis of water system operation performance by pressure zone.
- Operations support such as review of operating mode and system configuration, water leaks detection, repairs and recovery of water loss.
- Ensure proper installation and monitoring of pilot control system using supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA).
- Effects repairs to multiple emergency power generators for the wastewater lift stations;
- Responsible for overseeing the engineering aspect of the water and wastewater system operations modifications, maintenance and repairs.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil, Environmental, or Mechanical Engineering and four years of related engineering experience.
Knowledge of: Engineering principles and practices; mathematical, pumping and hydraulics, and wastewater conveyance and treatment concepts; project management principles; construction techniques; safe work practices; applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations.
Skills in: Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; reading, understanding, and preparing drawings for construction contracts; preparing a variety of technical reports and/or documentation; presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; interpreting and preparing specifications; estimating construction costs; conducting studies. Able to use computers and related software applications; communicate, interact with co-workers, supervisor, contractors, representatives of other agencies and departments, and the general public to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction; use AutoCAD to prepare plans for utility projects and contracts is a plus. Registration as an Engineer-In-Training in the CNMI, Guam, or any State of the United States is preferred but not required. Applicants licensed as a Professional Engineer in the CNMI, Guam, or any State of the United States is encouraged to apply.

- **Licensing:**
 - Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.
- **Physical Demands:**
 - Occasional lifting of objects; Subject to standing, walking sitting, bending, reaching, kneeling, pushing and pulling.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

BOE chair Andrew L. Orsini, who signed the proclamation on behalf of PSS, also hailed these employees' sacrifices. "We honor all of you for what you have invested in our country—your life to protect what we value the most: our freedom. We also honor you today for what you have invested in our Public School System: the growth and success of the children of our islands through education."

BOE vice chair Herman Atalig, who himself is a retired U.S. Army sergeant major who saw action during the Vietnam War, said: "Continue what you are doing: keep that fire in you in serving our community."

He also led everyone in a "moment of silence to pray to all service members that are still deployed overseas and hope they'd come home to their loved ones."

BOE member Gregory Borja, who is a Marine, thanked his fellow service members for "bringing the values to our students, the leadership, skills and learning" through PSS' programs particularly "the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps for high school students and Leadership Corps for middle school students."

Dr. Ron Snyder, who is the private schools representative on the BOE and served

in the U.S. Army military intelligence as a signal intelligence voice interceptor with Egyptian Arabic, emphasized the value of giving-back to the community. "In giving back, we give the opportunity for students to learn," he said. "Once a sense of service is put into our school, the level of community participation also increases."

BOE secretary/treasurer Maisie B. Tenorio, who also spoke at the event, said: "You are all extraordinary men and women who continue to help my family, our community and our country. ...I will continue to advocate for you. I hope today is the start of many great things that would come your way."

'Benefits for all'

Orsini said he will be working with his colleagues in the BOE and with Ada in ensuring there is "uniformity when it comes to benefits and resources" afforded to all service members employed by PSS.

Orsini said he would look into the CNMI central government's employment benefits that are offered to service members and mirroring that in PSS. "We have to take a look at other benefits and programs that our CNMI government have for our service members and see if that is something we can

implement within PSS. We have to make sure that our service members will have every support they need," Orsini added.

Good news: Buses

In his closing remarks, Associate Commissioner for Administrative Services Eric Magofna announced the acquisition of six new school vans for all JROTC units on Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and central office.

Tinian Jr. Sr. High School JROTC's school bus/van was expected to arrive on Monday. Rota's Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr. Sr. High School's JROTC bus/van has already been shipped. Kagman High School, Marianas High School and Saipan Southern High School were scheduled to be picked up also on Monday.

"These vehicles will be used to transport our cadets and this is such a huge help. On behalf of all the instructors, the board, the commissioner and everyone, please know how much we appreciate this," TJSHS's JROTC Battalion Capt. Joseph Santos said.

Ret. Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Basa of Saipan Southern High School, said: "With this new vehicle, please expect that we—our cadets and students—will be more out helping our community." (PR)

Fifty-seven elementary and middle school students were inducted into Mount Carmel School's Sacred Heart Chapter of the National Elementary Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society in a ceremony at the Mount Carmel Cathedral.

The ceremony was led by deacon Rosiky Camacho, school administrators, and society officers.

The inductees were selected

Hyun Woo Jo of Saipan completes Lassonde+X program

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah—Hyun Woo Jo of Saipan is among 45 students who were the first to compete the new Lassonde+X program during the 2020-21 academic year.

Lassonde+X is a three-course program that allows any undergraduate student at the University of Utah to “entrepreneur your major”—the

“X” is their major. The program is offered by the Department of Entrepreneurship & Strategy, in partnership with the Lassonde Entrepreneur Institute, at the David Eccles School of Business.

Hyun and the other students will receive a Lassonde+X designation on their academic transcripts. *(PR)*

MCS inducts 57 students into NEHS and NJHS

by a faculty council that reviewed the academic standing of elementary and middle school students who had maintained a grade point average of 3.75 and had demonstrated how they had fulfilled the society's values of scholarship, responsibility, service, leadership, and character.

This year's inductees in the National Elementary Society are Trisha Dela P. Abuan, Jannessa Francine T. Arriola, Kimason R. Cabrera, Kingston Isaiah T. Deleon Guerrero, Ciana Lei B. Demapan, Fatima Joy V. Dimaun, Mia Remae V.

Guerrero, Ye Lynn Ha, Gabriella Aundrea B. Inos, Siwoo Lee, Caydince Raine M. Masga, Miguel Garret R. Mendoza, Joey Claude B. Mostales, Payton Thomas T. Pangelinan, Leonmar Jaedon B. Regalado, Jaze Enzo P. San Nicolas, Julius Yue Sheu, and Arstin Itibwlschigh D. Tagabuel.

Among the new members of the National Junior Honor Society are Wayne Dominic E. Ano, Christine Rosanne N. Castro, Mikayla I. Castro, Jada B. Chang, Carly Kate P. Dela Cruz, Christopher James N. Dela Cruz, Kaitlyn Alexza A.

Drilon, Alexandria Dysangco, Patrick V. Guerrero, Jaeyun Jung, Maya Jae C., Chae Eun Jung, Kim, Justin O. Mallari, Ayanna Faith H. Matsumoto, Patricia Ann Matsumoto, Hope Gianna McQuay, Maya Elaine McQuay, Sarah Angela B. Melchor, Camron Xavier S. Pangelinan, Nicole Angela Pangelinan, Raina Park, Jay Francis Dominic O. Pineda, Emmanuel C. Pontiveros, Kaden Christian M. Propst, Iris Maleia S. Rasa, Frank Anthony M. Reyes, Kayli Ari L. Salas, Dylan D. Santos, Victor Nash M. Santos, Stephanie Joyce C. Sevilla, Taher Shakhir, Juliana Magan T. Subang,

Aryana Carmen A. Taimanao, Jose Clarence S. Tenorio, Quince Emanuele O. Tizon, Sage R. Villagomez, Chan Seo Yeom, Chan Woong Yeom, and Kelly Zheng.

MCS president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero shared his pride in these students for doing so well despite the pandemic. “Maintaining high grades during a pandemic is not easy, which is why I applaud all our students for doing so well in their classes. I must also recognize the hard work of our teachers and the support from our student's families to help them reach this academic achievement.” *(PR)*



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

MVA IS HIRING!!!!!!!

Opening Date: 05/17/2021 Closing Date: 05/31/2021

JVA#21-001: Marketing Specialist II
JVA#21-002: Graphic Artist
Location: Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

Interested persons may contact the Marianas Visitors Authority Office at (670) 664-3200/01 or visit www.mymarianas.com for more details.

ARMUEL BUILDERS AND GENERAL MAINTENANCE

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COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

San Jose Village • P.O. Box 502149 • Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. Nos: (670) 234-7145/7146/6293/6245 • Fax No.: (670) 235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com



PUBLIC NOTICE

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) THRU ITS ACTING CHAIRWOMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, MAY 22, 2021 IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING. THE DCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING CONVENES AT 8:00 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, CDA BUILDING, OLEAI SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 - A. Roll Call
 - B. Adoption of Agenda
 - C. Adoption of Minutes
 1. February 20, 2021
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- III. REPORTS
 - A. Executive Director's Report
 1. Administrative/Personnel Matters
 - a. Economic Development Manager - Recruitment
 - b. Accountant I - Recruitment
 - c. Budget Requests
 - i. Additional funding for Video Conferencing
 - ii. Reprogramming for Down Home & Loan Origination Software, Lenderfit
 2. Loan Matters
 - a. Norman C. Villagomez
 - b. Tinian Shipping Services, LLC
 - c. Termination of CDA Lease Agreement, Lot 104 R 01 (Sonton, Rota)
 - B. Comptroller's Report
- IV. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Rent-to-Own Home Program - Update
 - B. Saipan, Tinian & Rota Properties
- V. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Proposal - Marianas Tech Center
 - B. Proposal - CDA-Public Private Partnership
- VI. OTHER MATTERS
- VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT

/s/ AUBRY M. HOCOG
Chairwoman, CDA Board of Directors



PROCUREMENT SERVICES

CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB21-HSEM-091

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 02, 2021 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

“PURCHASE OF ONE (1) CLASS “I” 5-DOOR UTILITY VEHICLE FOR CNMI HOMELAND SECURITY & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY*

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ GERALD J. DELEON GUERRERO
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR HOMELAND SECURITY & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

A NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS SOCIAL SERVICE JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT



(1) EMERGENCY FOOD PROGRAM ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

For more information, job description and application can be obtained from Karidat main office at Sister Remedios Community Center, Chalan Kanoa.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: Complete application form, copy of diploma/degree, resume/bio-data; current police clearance within 6 months and a copy of valid CNMI driver's license.

**NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE.
CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, MAY 21, 2021 AT 4:00 PM**



PROCUREMENT SERVICES

CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB21-DPS-090

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 02, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“PURCHASE OF TWO (2) CLASS “F” PICK-UP TRUCK (1 CIF ROTA) (1 CIF TINIAN) & PURCHASE OF ONE (1) CLASS “I” SPORT UTILITY VEHICLE FOR DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ ROBERT A. GUERRERO
DPS COMMISSIONER

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS



PROCUREMENT SERVICES

CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB21-DOF-089

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 02, 2021 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

“TWO (2) SEPARATE OFFICE SPACE ONE SITUATED ON GROUND FLOOR FOR DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS



COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

San Jose Village • P.O. Box 502149 • Saipan, MP 96950
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Wednesday, May 19, 2021

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION DIVISION (DCD) OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) THRU ITS CHAIRMAN HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE DCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD ITS REGULAR MEETING ON SATURDAY, MAY 22, 2021 AT 8:00 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, CDA BUILDING, OLEAI, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 - A. Roll Call
 - B. Adoption of Agenda
 - C. Adoption of Minutes
 1. February 19, 2021
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- III. REPORTS
 - A. DCD Financial Status
- IV. OLD BUSINESS
- V. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Loan Matters
 1. Norman C. Villagomez
 2. Seven Twelve Enterprises, Inc.
 3. Lucille Ayuyu
 4. Antonio Mesngon
 5. Mozell's Small Engine Repair
 6. Desiree Pendergrass
- VI. OTHER MATTERS
- VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 1(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ FRANK LEE SN. BORJA
Chairman, DCD Board of Directors

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

How compromise with the GOP can serve the country

On May 12, 113 days into his presidency, Joe Biden finally sat down with leaders of the House and Senate—Chuck Schumer, Mitch McConnell, Nancy Pelosi and Kevin McCarthy. It's surprising and disappointing that this took so long to happen. Here's hoping many more such meetings follow.

Biden invited the leaders of both parties to the Oval Office to discuss infrastructure, taxes and other issues. He began by saying, "When I ran, I said I wasn't going to be a Democratic president, I was going to be president for all Americans." That's a promise the country needs him to keep. Until now, unfortunately, he has largely left Republicans out in the cold.

To win Republican support for an infrastructure bill, the president could have invited McConnell and McCarthy to help formulate a plan shortly after his inauguration. Instead, the White House released a \$2.3 trillion wish list that it knew stood little chance of garnering a single Republican vote in the Senate. Allies praised its scope, which stretched "infrastructure" to include expanding access to long-term care under Medicaid; this antagonized Republicans, who attacked it relentlessly. Both sides understood it was a dead letter. It's hard to take any of this seriously, and six weeks later, nothing has happened.

No wonder Americans think poorly of Washington.

It's true that Biden doesn't need Republican votes to pass an infrastructure bill. The Senate parliamentarian has ruled that it can be taken up as part of budget reconciliation, with passage requiring only a simple majority. But that doesn't mean Schumer should try to ram it through on a party-line vote with Vice President Kamala Harris breaking the tie.

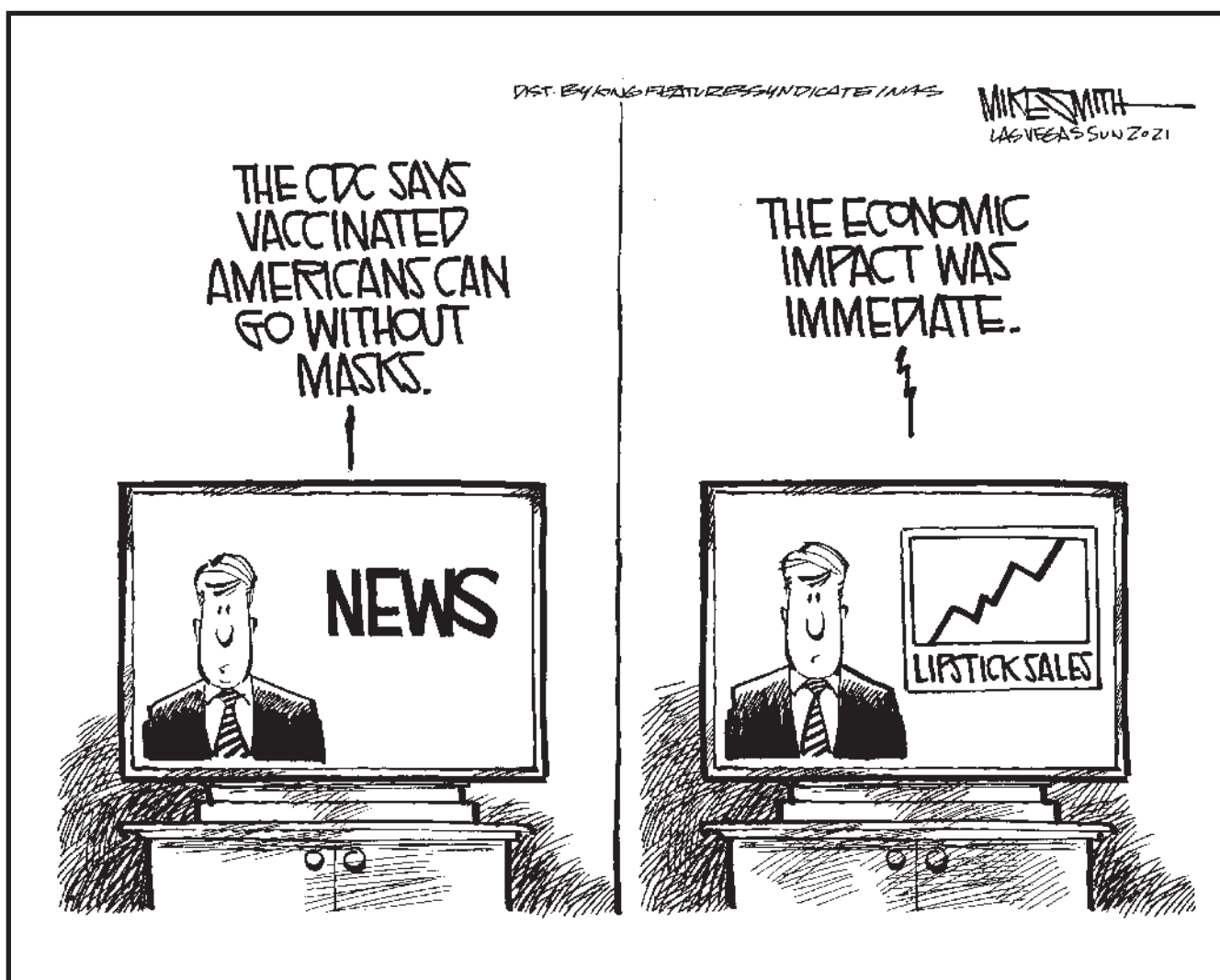
The fact is, Republicans have good ideas that ought to be considered, including on the topic that will be the biggest point of contention: how to pay for it all. Biden and Democrats want to roll back the 2017 tax cuts and raise other taxes. That's a non-starter for most Republicans. Sen. Mitt Romney has worked with Sen. Shelley Moore Capito and a group of 20 lawmakers on a counterproposal financed partly through user fees. As Romney said, "The pay-for ought to come from people who are using it. So if it's an airport, the people who are flying. If it's a port, the people who are shipping into the port. If it's a rail system, the people who are using the rails. If it's highways, it ought to be gas if it's a gasoline-powered vehicle."

Capito has said she's open to raising the gas tax, which is long overdue, or to a charge based on vehicle miles traveled. Utah has recently begun a VMT pilot program, which has the benefit of generating revenue even as electric vehicles become increasingly common. A mix of user fees and taxes—in other words, a compromise—would be ideal.

Republican senators met with Biden on May 13 to discuss these ideas and called the talks productive.

Enlisting Republicans can be helpful to Democrats in other ways, too. For instance, Schumer could blame the other side for ditching Biden's Medicaid provision (which belongs in a

See HOW on Next Page



Telling the truth about a lie

ATLANTA—During a House hearing about the attack on the U.S. Capitol, U.S. Rep. Andrew Clyde read from a prepared statement to take issue with people calling the assault "an insurrection."

"There was no insurrection," the freshman Republican from Athens, Georgia, said. "And to call it an insurrection, in my opinion, is a bold-faced lie."

The congressman went on to say that video from that day showed people walking through the main floor of the Capitol in an orderly fashion.

"If you didn't know the TV footage was a video from January the sixth, you'd actually think it was a normal tourist visit," he said.

Clyde's comments cannot be accepted or ignored. Police officers were attacked, beaten, crushed, and doused with bear spray. 140 were injured. Two committed suicide.

The vice president was evacuated by the Secret Service. My colleague was in hiding with a gas mask. More than 400 people have been arrested for their crimes that day.

Clyde's statement was 100% false.

But it's also part of a bizarre pattern of lies, large and small and sometimes for no reason at all, coming from some supporters of former President Donald Trump and from Trump himself.

The election was stolen. The insurrection never happened. Donald Trump should still be the president. None of that is true.

The first thing I noticed when I began covering the Trump campaign as a reporter in 2015 was that members of his staff lied about almost everything, even about things that were totally unnecessary.

Late in 2015, the campaign announced that a group of 100 Black preachers would endorse Trump at a Monday press conference. When I contacted the ministers, the first question was, "What press conference?"

Eventually, nothing the campaign said could be taken as fact. And that was before he was elected.

Over time the small lies became big lies. And the big lies became dangerous. There's no need to rewrite the last six months of history here, but suffice it to say Donald Trump did not win the Georgia election in 2020, even if he says he did.

That cost his fellow Republicans two Senate seats and control of the U.S. Senate. But it has not cost Trump the loyalty of the voters here who still believe in him, nor of the politicians who need those voters to stay in power, too.

Rep. Clyde is only the latest Trump-supporting member of Congress to say something false about what we all know to be true.

By **PATRICIA MURPHY**
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution



House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, who blamed Trump in January for the attack on the Capitol, said at the White House on Wednesday, "I don't think anybody is questioning the legitimacy of the presidential election. I think that is all over with."

Somebody forgot to tell that to U.S. Rep. Jody Hice, who just sent a three-page letter to conservatives to say that the 2020 election was beset by "systemic voting irregularities and fraud" and called Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger a "back-stabbing" Republican for refusing Trump's demand to overturn the results. Hice has announced plans to run against Raffensperger.

Like McCarthy's comments and Clyde's, too, Hice's comments are 100% false.

When I've asked people at Trump's events if his dishonesty bothered them, a constant refrain has been, "They all lie."

But they don't all lie, not like this.

Gov. Brian Kemp wasn't lying when he upheld the results of the Georgia election, even though it would have been better for his politics to do the opposite.

Lt. Gov. Geoff Duncan didn't lie when he forcefully defended the integrity of the elections during the count and recounts.

And Raffensperger wasn't lying when he turned Trump away in that infamous phone call, when Trump told him to "find" the votes in Georgia for him to win.

But there's a deeper problem for Republicans going forward than the dishonesty among some of their leaders.

When parties lose an election, a debate almost always follows between a faction that believes the party's ideas need to change and another faction that says the party's message should change, while their ideas can remain the same.

Republicans had that debate internally when John McCain lost in 2008. Democrats had the same internal struggle after Hillary Clinton lost in 2016.

But if a party can delude itself into believing that they didn't

See TELLING on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The great US political fight of the 2020s is over the future of work

At first blush, the minimum-wage crowd manning the drive-thru at a Wendy's in the small town of Wadesboro, N.C., wouldn't seem to have much in common with the cosmopolitan staffers of *Washingtonian*, a magazine that serves the D.C. area. But for a time earlier this month, workers at the two joints inadvertently found a kind of solidarity: They were mad as hell and they weren't going to take it anymore.

Hungry residents of the North Carolina Piedmont were stunned recently when they pulled up to the drive-thru window craving a Baconator, only to find a handwritten note on the speaker box that read: "We All Quit!! CLOSED!! Bye Alisa! Love Wendy's :)." Journalists with the local newspaper struggled to even find where the former fast-food workers had vanished to, and could only locate a Twitter post purportedly from a cousin of one of the men.

"Him and ALL his coworkers turned in their headsets and uniforms because their manager hadn't given anyone a raise in five years," he tweeted, adding, "This is the revolution and it's definitely being televised."

Nearly 400 miles to the north in the nation's capital, staffers at the *Washingtonian* had issues after the magazine's CEO, Cathy Merrill, published an op-ed in the *Washington Post* that criticized the culture of working from home that had arisen—at her publication and many other white-collar businesses—during the more than one year of pandemic lockdown. Merrill's argument that those reluctant to come back to the office shouldn't be entitled to all the benefits of full-time employment triggered a swift reaction from her own workers.

"As members of the *Washingtonian* editorial staff, we want our C.E.O. to understand the risks of not valuing our labor," multiple staffers posted on Twitter, arguing that Merrill's op-

ed came across as endangering their benefits or job security. "We are dismayed by Cathy Merrill's public threat to our livelihoods. We will not be publishing today."

These were two early, isolated skirmishes in what is shaping up—as the nation can finally see a near future that's not dominated by the COVID-19 outbreak—as a battle over what it means to be a worker in 2020s America. A year of lockdown has scrambled our ways of thinking about the workplace and where our paycheck fits into the broader meaning of life, our concept of what a job is worth, and—and here's where things get really interesting—who holds the upper hand? For the first time in decades, American workers are wondering ... who's the boss?

This conflict had been brewing on the back burner until last week's release of new monthly unemployment numbers—experts had expected the economy to add 1 million new jobs, but the actual number was just 266,000—as well as new data suggesting employers are posting more jobs than there are people willing to take them.

The moment—coming at a time of optimism over falling coronavirus counts—caused both liberals and conservatives to start digging trenches around the issue. Top Republicans—making a mockery of recent claims that they're now "the working-class party"—quickly sided with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and other business leaders to blame the pandemic's increased unemployment benefits for creating a culture of not working. Yet the Biden administration and progressive allies continue to push an agenda—such as a massive expansion of child care, and greater power to form unions—that would empower rank-and-file workers.

To look at it more broadly, the shock of massive changes created by the deadly pandemic—when workers in industries from supermarkets to hospital cleaning gained recognition as the "essential workers" they always were, while office workers question workplace rituals or long commutes that no longer seem necessary in an internet era—is becoming political. Some Democrats (not you, Sen. Joe Manchin) want to make some changes stick and while creating new space for worker empowerment. Now we're seeing a big-time GOP backlash, as governors in red states like Mississippi and Wyoming race to end extended unemployment benefits, to bolster the right-wing storyline that big government creates sloth.

But the broader social and economic trends may transcend the ability of government actors to stop them. Kati Sipp, a Philadelphia-based consultant and labor activist who writes frequently about the future of work, told me that the 2020-21 pandemic "has the ability to be as disruptive an event in the economy as World War II was in the 20th century."

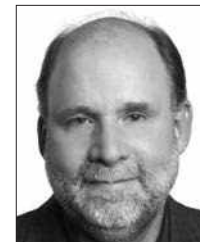
If so, that would be quite a change. At the tail end of the Great Depression, the 1940s' global conflict created an industrial war machine—forcing the removal of some barriers to women and people of color in the workforce—that ushered in both middle-class prosperity and social change, aided by the power of labor unions and a supportive Democratic government.

The changes wrought by the deadly crisis of COVID-19 are a threat to a long era of late-stage capitalism in the United States in which rank-and-file workers have had little power—with disappearing unions, absurdly low minimum wages, and social restraints like employer-based health insurance or high college tuition that make it hard to quit a bad job. Those issues still exist. But the radical lifestyle changes of the last year have nonetheless prompted millions to wonder whether, and why, they should go back to their old situations.

Not surprisingly, trend-story-seeking journalists have devoted a lot of electrons to telling stories about people like them—college-educated professionals who've developed a new lifestyle or even moved to the lower-cost countryside to work from home, and who aren't eager to return to five-days-a-week commuting now that the virus is waning. But the more profound change is likely to occur at the bottom of the jobs pyramid.

Sipp said that the social media websites she monitors are full of low-wage service workers writing that the health risks

By **WILL BUNCH**
The Philadelphia Inquirer



and difficult working conditions of laboring through the worst of the pandemic are essentially the last straw. "People are complaining now about masking," she said. "They're asking me to come to work for eight hours and stand up serving coffee, and you can't even put a mask over your nose?!" In addition to health fears, many low-wage workers have struggled with child care, especially as most schools moved online.

The growing difficulty in the fast-food industry in bringing back workers as the economy re-opens is prompting something for which activists had marched and picketed for a decade with mixed results: Higher pay, and better working conditions. Literally as I was writing this on Thursday morning, McDonald's announced a roughly 10% pay raise at its 660 company-owned stores, to an average of \$13 an hour, with a \$15-an-hour goal by 2024.

More money in the pocket of America's working class should be a feel-good story, but conservatives are apoplectic about changes in a job market they apparently liked just the way it was, pre-pandemic. The right-wing critique is that an overly generous \$1.9-trillion COVID-19 relief package signed by President Biden—particularly, a \$300-a-week federal boost to unemployment benefits through September—gives workers no economic incentive to go back.

Economists like the Nobel laureate (and New York Times columnist) Paul Krugman who've dug into this claim say it falls apart on closer scrutiny. The evidence is that social factors like the ones mentioned above—fears about contracting the virus, inability to find child care—are much bigger drivers of job hesitancy than the economic ones. That said, the rapid changes in the American way of work is becoming a political fight.

Simply put, the Biden administration's agenda—both the relief package that's already passed but especially its proposals now pending before Congress—is arguably the most pro-worker plan since Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal in the 1930s. For example, his proposal to spend \$225 million over the next decade on child care—which could save some families nearly \$15,000 a year—would give primarily women workforce options they simply don't have today. Likewise, free community college and currently debated plans to eliminate some of America's \$1.8 trillion college debt would open up new opportunities for 20-somethings.

Beyond the economic package, Biden and most Democrats are supporting legislation called the PRO Act—which has passed the House and awaits action in the 50-50 Senate—that would greatly strengthen the ability to organize a union and would swing the pendulum back toward labor for the first time in decades. If Team Biden can somehow run the table and enact all of its agenda, more companies like McDonald's will feel more pressure to pay their workers a living wage, because Americans will have both more power to collectively bargain and more life options, with better child care or schooling. My only complaint with the 46th president is that he's not doing more to sell this big picture to the average worker.

That's because we know Republicans and their 1000-watt megaphones of Fox News and talk radio are very good at fighting these new deals with the power of fear itself—screaming "socialism" so that the everyday workers who'd benefit the most from a day-care center in their community or sending their kid to free community college will fight against their own interest. But this time, the battle lines between America's overpaid, buying-a-yacht-for-their-yacht billionaires and the rank-and-file have never been clearer. It's not that hard to pick a side.

TELLING

From Page 8

really lose an election in the first place, that it was rigged or stolen or taken away, then nothing needs to change.

By the same token, if we as a country delude ourselves into believing that there was no insurrection on January 6th, that the assault was just a bunch of tourists who got out of control, then we won't ask ourselves the hard questions about who those people were or why anyone would want to desecrate the Capitol in the first place.

Allowing those statements to stand unchallenged also leaves mainstream Georgia Republicans, many of whom I have spoken with, asking themselves if they really belong to a party anymore at all.

They're not Democrats. But like Rep. Liz Cheney, they also don't recognize a party that won't tell the truth to its own voters, no matter how obvious it may be.

They're honest people. They're conservative. And they've got nowhere to go.

Republicans won't be able to win the next election if they can't be honest about what happened in the last one. And that, Mr. Clyde, is the truth.

HOW






From Page 8

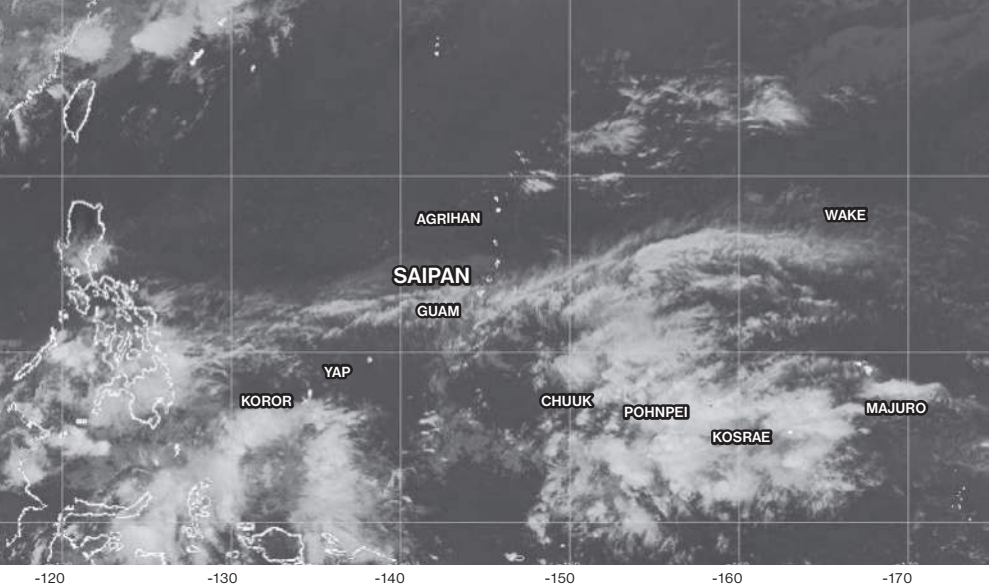
health care bill) and the president's proposal to require that projects use unionized labor (which will raise costs). There are better ways to help working people than excluding non-union workers and reducing the amount of infrastructure that can be built and repaired.

The president was right to campaign as a bridge-builder. But building bridges—and roads and other infrastructure—requires cooperation, flexibility and pragmatism, as any engineer will tell you. To succeed, Biden will need to keep showing more of those virtues, and not just on taxes and infrastructure. It's a worthy goal for the next hundred days, and well beyond.

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The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
									
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	
87°	78°	87°	78°	88°	79°	88°	79°	86°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:05 AM, TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows considerable mid and high clouds with isolated showers moving through the Marianas waters. A trough to the east is creating scattered showers to the east. The buoys reveal combined seas of 5 to 7 feet composed largely of east-northeast trade-wind swell and wind waves.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.


- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20



seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Cloudy	87	80 °F
Palau	Partly cloudy	86	78 °F
Yap	Rain	88	72 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85	81 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85	80 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87	81 °F
Majuro	Partly cloudy	86	81 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Thursday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:40 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:40 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:03 AM	11:41 AM
Thursday	-	12:48 AM	12:36 PM
Friday	-	1:31 AM	1:31 PM
Saturday	-	2:13 AM	2:27 PM
Sunday	-	2:55 AM	3:24 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Cloudy	63	60 °F
Beijing	Mostly cloudy	85	65 °F
Hong Kong	Rain	81	73 °F
Honolulu	Partly cloudy	83	71 °F
London	Rain	71	57 °F
Los Angeles	Partly cloudy	68	57 °F
Manila	Thunderstorms	89	79 °F
Melbourne	Cloudy	64	51 °F
Miami	Cloudy	86	76 °F
New York	Sunny	79	60 °F
Osaka	Partly cloudy	72	57 °F
Paris	Partly cloudy	80	59 °F
Pusan	Partly cloudy	75	51 °F
Rome	Mostly Sunny	83	58 °F
Salem	Partly cloudy	55	46 °F
San Francisco	Cloudy	61	51 °F
Seoul	Sunny	73	51 °F
Tokyo	Cloudy	71	59 °F
Washington, DC	Sunny	81	63 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:07 AM	High Tide	1.91	
7:49 AM	Low Tide	1.41	
11:37 AM	High Tide	1.62	
7:14 PM	Low Tide	0.18	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 29, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 4, 5, 6	UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam	UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	5	UA184	9:50pm	3:45am+1	5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3,	UA184	10:25pm	4:10am+1	1, 3

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
ROTA TO GUAM				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

Graduation dresses on sale at Sarah Fashion

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

With the big day just a few days or weeks away, are you still looking for a graduation dress? Look no farther than Sarah Fashion beside the Perfectly Set jewelry store along Route 308 in Garapan.

Manager Xixi Chen said they have different kinds of graduation dresses in all colors and designs to make your special day even more memorable. And for a short time only, Sarah Fashion is offering 10% off on graduation dresses.

With students now gearing up for some version of face-to-face in-person graduation, Chen believes it's a good time for businesses like Sarah Fashion to step up to the plate and give graduating students what they need and that is to wear something stylish and fashionable during their graduation.

As a big thank you to the



Sarah Fashion is located between Perfectly Set and Magandang Utang on the first floor of the M2M Building along Route 308 in Garapan.

community, Chen said Sarah Fashion is extending the 10% discount for all dresses—for only graduation dresses—for a limited time only.

For more information, call 285-5888 or 233-5327.

"It's our way of giving back to the people of Saipan who have been buying from our store all these years," she said.

Aside from graduation dresses, Sarah Fashion also

has dresses for all formal occasions and fashionable casual wear perfect for Saipan's tropical climate. Women's pants, shorts, shirts, scarves, underwear (bras and panties up to XL), hats, sunglasses, bags, and accessories like necklaces and bracelets are also available at the store. Sarah Fashion also carries a few items for men like graphic tees and board shorts. Men's pants are expected to arrive next week.



For a short time only, Sarah Fashion is offering 10% off on graduation dresses.

Chen said Sarah Fashion opened in 2011 and has always catered to the local market and that's the reason why the store hasn't been that affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. She admits, though, that the initial lockdown when the CNMI recorded its first cases of the coronavirus in late March 2020 worried her a bit as almost everything came to a standstill in the Commonwealth.

Suddenly, there were no more grand celebrations like graduations, debuts, birthday celebrations, christenings, and



Sarah Fashion has been open since 2011 and has always catered to the local market.

other event to go to; business waned as people no longer needed to buy clothes.

Fortunately, the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. have worked together to keep the CNMI's COVID-19 cases low and the Commonwealth is now one of the safest places in the world when it comes to the pandemic.

Sarah Fashion is located on the first floor of the M2M Building in Garapan and is open from Monday to Sunday, 12pm-7pm. For more information, call 285-5888 or 233-5327.

Ransomware hits AXA units in Asia, hurts Ireland healthcare

PARIS (AP)—Cybercriminals have hit four Asian subsidiaries of the Paris-based insurance company AXA with a ransomware attack, impacting operations in Thailand, Malaysia, Hong Kong and the Philippines, the insurer said.

The criminals claimed to have stolen 3 terabytes of data including medical records and communications with doctors and hospitals.

In Ireland, meanwhile, the national healthcare system struggled to restore IT systems that were all but paralyzed by a cyberattack last week by a different Russian-speaking ransomware group. That group is demanding \$20 million, according to the ransom negotiation page on its darknet site, which The Associated Press viewed.

The gang threatened Monday to "start publishing and selling your private information very soon."

The Irish government's decision not to pay the criminals means hospitals won't have access to patient records—and

must resort mostly to handwritten notes—until painstaking efforts are complete to restore thousands of computer servers from backups.

AXA Partners, the Paris insurer's international arm, offered few details of the Asia attacks. It said in a brief statement Sunday that their full impact was being investigated and that steps would be "taken to notify and support all corporate clients and individuals impacted." It said the attack was recent, but did not specify when exactly. It said data in Thailand was accessed and that "regulators and business partners have been informed."

News of the Asia attack was first reported by the Financial Times. The attackers used a ransomware variant called Avaddon. In a post on their darknet leak site including some document samples, they claim to have stolen 3 terabytes of data including medical records, customer IDs and privileged communications with hospitals and

doctors. Avaddon threatened to leak "valuable company documents" in 10 days if the company did not pay an unspecified ransom.

AXA, among Europe's top five insurers, said this month that it will stop writing cyberinsurance policies in France that reimburse customers for extortion payments made to ransomware criminals.

The insurer said at the time that it was suspending the option in France only in response to growing concern that such reimbursements encourage cyber criminals to demand ransom from companies they prey on, crippling them with malware. Once victims of ransomware pay up, criminals provide software keys to decode the data. Last year, ransomware reached epidemic levels as criminals increasingly turned to "double extortion," stealing sensitive data before activating the encryption software that paralyzes networks and threatening to dump it online if they don't get paid.

Biden plan would pick winners, losers in move to green jobs

WASHINGTON (AP)—In Georgia, school bus-maker Blue Bird has visions of going from selling a few hundred electric buses annually to 15,000. In Michigan, Ford plans to produce an all-electric version of its F-150 pickup truck.

Both companies are looking to President Joe Biden's \$2.3 trillion infrastructure proposal to help transform the automotive sector as electric vehicles shift from a luxury niche to mainstream America. The plan reflects an effort by Biden to accelerate certain sectors of the economy with the belief they'll become the engines for growth in the decades to come.

"You need someone to give you a real jumpstart," Blue Bird CEO Phil Horlock said. "This is actually changing the landscape."

Biden will visit Ford's

electric vehicle plant in Dearborn, Michigan, on Tuesday, returning to an industrial state that contributed to his election victory and is the center of an auto sector that'll likely need some government help to move away from gas guzzlers.

The Democratic president wants the government to accept the risk of investing in a series of industries such as electric vehicles and semiconductors that he believes will become the backbone of the U.S. economy. It's a sharp philosophical divide from Republican lawmakers who would rather the federal government focus more on the steel, concrete and asphalt of conventional infrastructure projects.

"He has an industrial policy -- which we've always had but never admitted," said Brett Smith, director of technology at the Center

for Automotive Research. "Our industrial policy had been that low-cost energy wins. He's shifting that to carbon-free energy is the industrial policy."

Biden said in a speech last week that his proposed new tranche of government spending is required to keep the U.S. economy competitive and fair on top of the coronavirus relief that's already flowing. Besides infrastructure, Biden is asking for another \$1.8 trillion—putting the combined total spending at roughly \$4 trillion—to devote to education and families.

Biden said his infrastructure plan is "an eight-year investment strategy to make sure working people of this country get to share in the benefits of a rising economy and to put us in a position to win the competition with China and the rest of the world for the 21st century."



LEADING INDICATORS

S&P	DOW	NASDAQ
4,167.75	34,351.00	13,349.75
+10.00	+95.00	+46.25
+0.24%	+0.28%	+0.35%

EXCHANGE RATES		Hong Kong Dollar		Russian Ruble	
Australian Dollar	1.29	Indian Rupee	73.33	Singapore Dollar	1.33
British Pound	0.7074	Japanese Yen	109.21	South Korean Won	1131.55
Canadian Dollar	1.21	Malaysian Ringgit	4.13	Swiss Franc	0.90
Chinese Yuan	6.44	New Zealand Dollar	1.39	Taiwan Dollar	28.11
Euro	0.8229	Philippine Peso	47.88	Thailand Baht	31.49

Nation

Biden boosting world vaccine sharing commitment to 80M doses

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden said Monday that the U.S. will share an additional 20 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines with the world in the coming six weeks as domestic demand for shots drops and global disparities in distribution have grown more evident.

The doses will come from existing production of Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccine stocks, marking the first time that U.S.-controlled doses of vaccines authorized for use in the country will be shared overseas. It will boost the global vaccine sharing commitment from the U.S. to 80 million.

“We know America will never be fully safe until the pandemic that’s raging globally is under control,” Biden said at the White House.

The announcement comes on top of the Biden’s administration’s prior commitment to share about 60 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine, which is not yet authorized for use in the U.S., by the end of June. The AstraZeneca doses will be available to ship once they clear a safety review by the Food and Drug Administration.

Biden also tapped COVID-19 coordinator Jeff Zients to



AP
Vice President Kamala Harris listens as President Joe Biden speaks about distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, in the East Room of the White House, Monday, May 17, 2021, in Washington.

lead the administration’s efforts to share doses with the world.

“Our nation’s going to be the arsenal of vaccines for the rest of the world,” Biden said. He added that, compared to other countries like Russia and China that have sought to leverage their domestically produced doses, “we will not use our vaccines to secure favors from other countries.”

The Biden administration

hasn’t yet said how the new commitment of vaccines will be shared or which countries will receive them.

To date, the U.S. has shared about 4.5 million doses of AstraZeneca vaccine with Canada and Mexico. Additional doses of the Pfizer vaccine manufactured in the U.S. have begun to be exported as the company has met its initial contract commitments to the

federal government.

The U.S. has faced growing pressure to share more of its vaccine stockpile with the world as interest in vaccines has waned domestically.

“While wealthy countries continue ramping up vaccinations, less than 1 percent of COVID-19 vaccine doses globally have been administered to people in low-income

countries,” said Tom Hart the acting CEO of the ONE Campaign. “The sooner the US and other wealthy countries develop a coordinated strategy for sharing vaccine doses with the world’s most vulnerable, the faster we will end the global pandemic for all.”

More than 157 million Americans have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, and 123 million are fully vaccinated against the virus. Biden hopes the U.S. will have 160 million people fully vaccinated by July Fourth.

Globally, more than 3.3 million people are confirmed to have died from the coronavirus. The U.S. has seen the largest confirmed loss of life from COVID-19, at more than 586,000 people.

Supreme Court to take up major abortion rights challenge

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court agreed Monday to a showdown over abortion in a case that could dramatically alter nearly 50 years of rulings on abortion rights.

With three justices appointed by President Donald Trump part of a 6-3 conservative majority, the court is taking on a case about whether states can ban abortions before a fetus can survive outside the womb.

Mississippi, which is asking to be allowed to enforce an abortion ban after 15 weeks of pregnancy, is not asking the court to overrule the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision confirming a woman’s right to an abortion, or a decision 19 years later that reaffirmed it.

But abortion rights supporters said the case is a clear threat to abortion rights. “The court cannot uphold this law without overturning the principal protections of *Roe v. Wade*,” Nancy Northup, president and CEO of the Center for Reproductive Rights, said in a call with reporters.

Even if the court does not explicitly overrule earlier cases, a decision favorable to the state could lay the groundwork for allowing even more

restrictions on abortion, including state bans on abortion once a fetal heartbeat is detected, as early as six weeks.

The case probably will be argued in the fall, with a decision likely in the spring of 2022 during the campaign for congressional midterm elections.

Mississippi’s ban had been blocked by lower courts as inconsistent with Supreme Court precedent that protects a woman’s right to obtain an abortion before the fetus can survive outside her womb.

“States may regulate abortion procedures prior to viability so long as they do not impose an undue burden on the woman’s right, but they may not ban abortions. The law at issue is a ban,” Judge Patrick Higginbotham of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals wrote in affirming a lower-court ruling that invalidated the law.

The Supreme Court had previously turned down state appeals over previability abortion bans.

More than 90% of abortions take place in the first 13 weeks of a woman’s pregnancy, according to the Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention.

John Bursch, vice president of the anti-abortion Alliance Defending Freedom, said the high court has repeatedly held that states can regulate abortions later in pregnancy.

Viability “has never been a legitimate way to determine a developing infant’s dignity or to decide anybody’s legal existence,” Bursch said.

The justices had put off action on the case for several months. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, an abortion rights proponent, died just before the court’s new term began in October. Her replacement, Justice Amy Coney Barrett, is the most open opponent of abortion rights to join the court in decades.

Barrett is one of three Trump appointees on the Supreme Court. The other two, Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh, voted in dissent last year to allow Louisiana to enforce restrictions on doctors that could have closed two of the state’s three abortion clinics.

Chief Justice John Roberts, joined by Ginsburg and the other three liberal justices, said the restrictions were virtually identical to a Texas law the court struck down in 2016.

ACROSS THE NATION

88% of children covered by monthly payments starting in July

WASHINGTON (AP)—

The Treasury Department said Monday that 39 million families are set to receive monthly child payments beginning on July 15. The payments are part of President Joe Biden’s \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package, which expanded the child tax credit for one year and made it possible to prepay the benefits on a monthly basis. Nearly 88% of children are set to receive the benefits without their parents needing to take any additional action.

“This tax cut sends a clear and powerful message to American workers, working families with children: Help is here,” Biden said in remarks at the White House. Qualified families will receive a payment of up to \$300 per month for each child under 6 and up to \$250 per month for children between the ages of 6 and 17. The child tax credit was previously capped at \$2,000 and only paid out to families with income tax obligations after they filed with the IRS. But for this year, couples earning \$150,000 or less can receive the full payments on the 15th of each month, in most cases by direct deposit. The benefits total \$3,600 annually for children under 6 and \$3,000 for those who are older. The

IRS will determine eligibility based on the 2019 and 2020 tax years, but people will also be able to update their status through an online portal. The administration is also setting up another online portal for non-filers who might be eligible for the child tax credit. The president has proposed an extension of the increased child tax credit through 2025 as part of his \$1.8 trillion families plan. Outside analysts estimate that the payments could essentially halve child poverty. The expanded credits could cost roughly \$100 billion a year.

California will stay masked for another month

SACRAMENTO, Calif.

(AP)—California won’t lift its mask requirement until June 15 to give the public and businesses time to prepare and ensure coronavirus cases stay low, the state health director said Monday, a decision that runs counter to many other states including Oregon and Washington that quickly aligned with last week’s new federal guidelines. “This four-week period will give Californians time to prepare for this change, while we continue the relentless focus on delivering vaccines particularly to underserved communities and those that were hard hit throughout this

pandemic,” Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly said. The timing reflects California Gov. Gavin Newsom’s earlier announcement that if cases remain low, the state will drop nearly all COVID-19 restrictions on June 15. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention altered its mask guidelines last week, saying it’s safe for fully vaccinated people to skip face coverings and social distancing in virtually all situations. The CDC guidelines say all people should still wear masks in crowded indoor locations such as airplanes, buses, hospitals and prisons. On May 3, California adopted the CDC’s earlier recommendation that people who are fully vaccinated do not need to wear a mask outdoors unless they are attending crowded gatherings. But the state says those people must wear masks indoors unless they are meeting with other vaccinated people. For unvaccinated people, face coverings are required outdoors any time physical distancing can’t be maintained, including at such as things as parades, fairs, sports events and concerts. Businesses are expected to adhere to the state’s guidelines, Ghaly said. Both the CDC and state plan to keep the mask requirement in place for students for the rest of the calendar year.

Asia

AMID DEADLY VIRUS SURGE

Powerful cyclone hits land in India

NEW DELHI (AP)—A powerful cyclone that emerged in the Arabian Sea made landfall on India's western coast on Monday, hours after authorities evacuated hundreds of thousands of people and suspended COVID-19 vaccinations in one state.

Cyclone Tauktae, the most powerful storm to hit the region in more than two decades, came ashore in Gujarat state with heavy rain, a battering storm surge and sustained winds of up to 165 kilometers (103 miles) per hour, the India Meteorological Department said.

Forecasters warned of possible extensive damage from high winds, heavy rainfall and flooding in low-lying areas.

Twelve people were reported dead before the storm hit land and hundreds of thousands were evacuated, a process complicated by the coronavirus pandemic.

The massive storm came as India is battling a devastating coronavirus surge—and both the storm and the virus could exacerbate the effects of the other. The storm had already led to the suspension of some vaccination efforts and there is greater risk of virus transmission in crowded evacuation shelters.

In Gujarat, vaccinations were suspended for two days and authorities worked to evacuate hundreds of thousands of people to temporary



Fishermen try to move a fishing boat to a safer ground on the Arabian Sea coast in Mumbai, India, Monday, May 17, 2021.

relief shelters. The state's chief minister, Vijay Rupani, asked officials to ensure that oxygen supplies for hospitals are not disrupted.

In Maharashtra, six people were killed, the Press Trust of India news agency reported. The state's capital, Mumbai, was lashed by heavy rain and strong winds, forcing authorities to suspend operations at the city's main airport.

Fishing boats off the coast in both states returned to harbor and thousands of rescue and relief teams, along with ships and aircraft, were deployed for recovery operations.

Rain from the storm earlier killed six people in Kerala, Karnataka and Goa states over the weekend before it moved along the western coastline.

Virus lockdown measures, meanwhile, could slow relief

work after the storm, and damage from the storm could destroy roads and cut vital supply lines for vaccines and medical supplies needed for virus patients. Damage from the storm is also likely to particularly hurt the poor, who are already stretched to the limit by the economic impact of the virus.

The South Asia head of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Udaya Regmi, said the cyclone is a "terrible double blow" for families that have already been hit by COVID-19 infections and deaths.

"The potential impacts of Cyclone Tauktae are frightening as this monster storm threatens the state of Gujarat. Every effort must continue to keep people safe from this dangerous storm and the raging pandemic," Regmi said.

Election watchdog says no credible proof of Myanmar fraud

BANGKOK (AP)—Last November's election results in Myanmar were "by and large, representative of the will of the people," an independent election monitoring organization said Monday, rejecting the military's allegations of massive fraud that served as its reason for seizing power.

While there were flaws in the election process, "there were a number of procedural safeguards implemented throughout the polling process, which ... was found to be transparent and reliable," the Asian Network for Free Elections said in a report.

It noted, however, that Myanmar's electoral process is "fundamentally undemocratic" because its 2008 constitution, written during army rule, grants the military an automatic 25% share of all parliamentary seats, enough to block constitutional changes. Large sectors of the population, most notably the Muslim Rohingya minority, are deprived of citizenship rights, including the right to vote.

Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party won a landslide victory in the Nov. 8 polls, which should have secured it a second five-year term in office. Its 2015 victory moved Myanmar along a path toward democracy after more than five decades of direct and indirect military rule.

But on Feb. 1, the military arrested Suu Kyi and dozens of other top officials. It prevented elected lawmakers from convening a new session of Parliament, declared a state of emergency and said it would run the country until new elections were held in a year -- a deadline it later indicated could be delayed an additional year.

Security forces have used lethal force in an attempt to suppress huge popular opposition to the military coup. Hundreds of protesters and bystanders have been killed in the crackdown.

The report by ANFREL, a non-partisan international group working for fair elec-

tions in Asia, noted that junta leader Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing said the military took over because "there was terrible fraud in the voter lists." The army-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party, which suffered unexpectedly heavy losses in the election, made similar allegations.

Since the coup, the state-controlled media have released data down to the township level purporting to show that voter lists could not be reconciled with the election results.

ANFREL said it "lacked sufficient information to independently verify the allegations of voter list fraud" because the election law did not allow it access to voting lists, but that it had not seen any credible evidence of any massive irregularities.

The report said there was merit to several complaints about the election made not just by the Union Solidarity and Development Party—the main opposition party—but also by independent observers.

World

AS TRUCE EFFORTS REMAIN ELUSIVE

Israel strikes Gaza tunnels

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—The Israeli military unleashed another heavy wave of airstrikes Monday on the Gaza Strip, saying it destroyed militant tunnels and the homes of nine Hamas commanders. International diplomacy to end the weeklong war that has killed hundreds appeared to make little headway.

Israel has said it will press on for now with its attacks against Hamas, the militant group that rules Gaza, and the United States signaled it would not pressure the two sides for a cease-fire even as President Joe Biden said he supported one.

The latest attacks destroyed the five-story building housing the Hamas-run Religious Affairs Ministry, a building Israel said housed the main operations center of Hamas' internal security forces. Israel also killed a top Gaza leader of Islamic Jihad, another militant group whom the Israeli military blamed for some of the thousands of rocket attacks launched at Israel in recent days. Israel said its strikes destroyed 15 kilometers (9 miles) of tunnels used by militants.

At least 212 Palestinians have been killed in the week of airstrikes, including 61 children and 36 women, with more than 1,400 people wounded, according to the Gaza Health Ministry. Ten people in Israel, including a 5-year-old boy and a soldier, have been killed in the ongoing rocket attacks launched from civilian areas in Gaza toward civilian areas in Israel.

Violence has also erupted between Jews and Arabs inside Israel, leaving scores of people injured. On Monday, a Jewish man attacked last week by a group of Arabs in the central city of Lod died of his wounds, according to police.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met with top security officials on Monday evening and later said Israel would "continue to strike terror targets" in Gaza. "We will continue to operate as long as necessary in order to return calm and security to all Israeli citizens," he said.

The new airstrikes, which hit Gaza overnight Monday and again in the evening, hollowed out one floor of a multistory concrete building and killed five people. A woman picked through clothing, rubble and splintered furni-

ture in a room that had been destroyed. One strike demolished the wall of one room, leaving untouched an open cabinet filled with bedding inside. Children walked over debris in the road.

A car in the street that witnesses said was hit by an airstrike was bent and torn, its roof ripped back and what was left of the driver's side door smeared with blood. A beachside cafe the car had just left was splintered and on fire. Rescue workers tried to put out the blaze with a small fire extinguisher.

Gaza City's mayor, Yahya Sarraj, said the strikes had caused extensive damage to roads and other infrastructure. He said water supplies to hundreds of households were disrupted. "We are trying hard to provide water, but the situation remains difficult," he said.

The U.N. has warned that the territory's sole power station is at risk of running out of fuel. Gaza already experiences daily power outages for between eight and 12 hours, and tap water is undrinkable. Mohammed Thabet, a spokesman for the territory's electricity distribution company, said it has fuel to supply Gaza with electricity for two or three days.

Palestinian officials said Israel pledged to open its only cargo crossing with Gaza for several hours Tuesday to allow humanitarian aid—including fuel, food and medicine—to enter.

Israel also said it targeted what it suspected was a Hamas submersible weapon preparing for an attack on Israel's coast.

The war broke out May 10, when Hamas fired long-range rockets at Jerusalem after weeks of clashes in the holy city between Palestinian protesters and Israeli police. The protests were focused on the heavy-handed policing of a flashpoint sacred site during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan and the threatened eviction of dozens of Palestinian families by Jewish settlers.

More protests were expected across the region Tuesday in response to a call by Palestinian citizens of Israel for a general strike. The protest has the support of Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah party.

The Biden administration

has declined so far to publicly criticize Israel's part in the fighting or send a top-level envoy to the region. On Monday, the United States again blocked a proposed U.N. Security Council statement calling for an end to "the crisis related to Gaza" and the protection of civilians, especially children.

The White House said Monday evening that Biden expressed "support" for a cease-fire during a call with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. But Secretary of State Antony Blinken signaled earlier that the U.S. did not intend to pressure the two sides.

"Ultimately it is up to the parties to make clear that they want to pursue a cease-fire," Blinken told reporters during a trip to Denmark.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who spoke Monday with Netanyahu, emphasized her country's solidarity with Israel, condemned the continued rocket attacks from Gaza, and expressed hope for a swift end to the fighting, according to her office.

Hamas' top leader, Ismail Haniyeh, who is based abroad, said the group has been contacted by the United Nations, Russia, Egypt and Qatar as part of cease-fire efforts but "will not accept a solution that is not up to the sacrifices of the Palestinian people."

Since the fighting began, the Israeli military has launched hundreds of airstrikes it says are targeting Hamas' militant infrastructure. Palestinian militants in Gaza have fired more than 3,200 rockets into Israel. Israeli military officials said Hamas had stockpiled about 15,000 rockets before the war started. Rocket attacks continued Monday, with one hitting a building in the city of Ashdod that caused injuries, the Israeli police said.

Israel's military said six rockets launched from Lebanon late Monday apparently fell inside Lebanese territory, and artillery returned fire into southern Lebanon.

Israel's airstrikes have leveled a number of Gaza City's tallest buildings, which Israel alleges contained Hamas military infrastructure. Among them was the building housing The Associated Press Gaza office and those of other media outlets.

Good Housekeeping

By GRETCHEN MCKAY
PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

Lasagna is a favorite Italian pasta for many reasons, but mostly because it's easy to assemble and can be adapted to any diet. Time and again I've stacked a savory mixture of red sauce and cooked ground beef or sausage between the layers. But like a lot of people, I'm trying to consume less meat these days.

Luckily, there are plenty of items in the produce aisle that go with tomatoes and cheese and can stand up to the heat of a hot oven.

This recipe features the classic combo of mushroom, garlic and Tuscan kale, a long-leafed variety that is not as bitter (and prettier) than the common curly kale. Be sure to cut out the fibrous center rib before chopping the leaves into bite-sized pieces or ribbons.

I used a tomato cream sauce but you could go with marinara for a less rich dish. If you use no-boil noodles, be liberal with the sauce (especially on the sides and corners) or it will end up dry.

Serve with crusty Italian bread, a green salad and a nice glass of sangiovese.

3 CHEESE KALE LASAGNA

- PG tested
- For sauce
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 28-ounce can of San Marzano whole peeled tomatoes
- 28-ounce can of crushed San Marzano tomatoes
- 1/2 peeled onion
- Generous pinch of red pepper flakes, or more to taste
- Generous pinch of salt
- 1/2 cup heavy cream, or more to taste
- For kale filling
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 8 ounces mushrooms (any variety), sliced
- Salt and pepper
- 1 bunch Tuscan kale, destemmed and chopped
- For lasagna
- 1 cup ricotta cheese
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese, plus more for sprinkling on top
- Zest of 1 fresh lemon
- Kosher salt and fresh cracked black pepper, to taste
- 12 cooked or no-boil lasagna noodles
- 16 ounces grated mozzarella cheese
- Make sauce: Melt butter in large saucepan over medium heat. Add whole and crushed tomatoes, along with onion wedge, red pepper flakes and salt.
- Bring tomatoes to a simmer. Cook, uncovered, for about 30 minutes, stirring occasionally and mashing large pieces of to-



(GRETCHEN MCKAY/
POST-GAZETTE/TNS)
Layering sauteed kale and mushrooms instead of meat between the noodles makes this cheesy lasagna a healthier alternative to the classic Italian pasta dish.

mato with a fork or spoon.

Remove onion wedge, stir in cream and season with additional salt or pepper flakes, if needed. Keep warm.

While sauce is cooking, make cheese filling. In a medium bowl, combine ricotta cheese, egg, grated Parmesan, lemon zest, salt and pepper. Set aside.

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. In a large saucepan, heat olive oil over medium heat.

Add garlic and saute for about 30 seconds, being careful not to burn it.

Add mushrooms and a pinch of salt. Cook for 2-3 minutes, stirring often, until mushrooms are lightly browned.

Add kale and sauté for 5 minutes, or until kale has softened. Set aside to cool slightly.

Prepare lasagna: Ladle about 1 cup tomato cream sauce into the bottom of a 12-by-9-inch lasagna pan and spread so it com-

pletely covers the bottom. Lay 4 lasagna noodles on top of sauce.

Pour another 3/4-1 cup of tomato sauce on top of noodles (depending on how saucy you like your pasta), and spread with a spatula or spoon to cover.

Layer half of the kale mixture over the noodles, then dollop 1/3 of the ricotta mixture on top, followed by 1/3 of the mozzarella cheese. Repeat with 4 more noodles, sauce, kale, ricotta mixture and mozzarella cheese.

Add a final layer of lasagna noodles and top with the remaining tomato sauce and remaining ricotta and mozzarella cheese. If desired, sprinkle a little grated Parmesan on top along with finely chopped parsley.

Cover pan with foil and bake lasagna for about 45 minutes or until top cheese is melted and golden.

Remove from oven; let for 10-15 minutes before serving.

Serves 8.

Design Recipes: Working with brick walls

By CATHY HOBBS
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Exposed brick is a common and often desirable design feature when it comes to industrial spaces. It can also pose a design dilemma, especially with hanging artwork.

Love the look of exposed brick but aren't quite sure how to highlight this dominant feature? Here are some

- tips to avoid hitting a brick wall with design.
1. Use leaning mirrors. Hanging mirrors on a brick wall is often a challenge.
 2. Consider hanging art from the ceiling or nail using transparent wire.
 3. Drill into brick walls using a masonry drill. Be precise and plan so as to not create unnecessary holes.
 4. Consider painting a

- brick wall or brick wall element. White and gray are popular color choices.
5. Integrate portable industrial elements to help highlight an exposed brick wall feature.
 6. Select a neutral color palette to not "compete" with the color of the exposed brick.
 7. Consider using complementary industrial elements such as wood and steel.
 8. Use black and white or graphic images. They often add to the element of industrial chic.
 9. Consider adding wallpaper to some or part of a brick wall.
 10. Use industrial chic finishes and materials such as cold rolled steel and brass.

(SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/
HANDOUT/TNS)
Industrial-style elements complement a brick wall.



Design Recipes: How to make your space shine with midcentury modern design

By CATHY HOBBS
Tribune News Service
(TNS)

Midcentury modern design is more popular than ever. Is it making a comeback? Or has it never really gone away?

Whether you want a modern, minimalist look or a classic and timeless space, midcentury modern design may be the ideal aesthetic to help make your space shine.

How do you get started? And what furniture pieces should you choose? Here are some top tips.

1. Consider shag or sheepskin. These high-texture textiles can be incorporated into a space either as floor coverings or throws.
2. Choose bold, colorful, graphic prints when looking to make a statement with art.
3. Look to acquire classic midcentury modern pieces like dining tables and chairs.
4. Incorporate metals and finishes such as brass, which remains the go-to midcentury modern finish.

5. Consider using black-and-white prints in place of traditional artwork.
6. Go for both matte and shine. Lacquer comes in all levels of shine. You can use both matte and high gloss for a midcentury modern vibe.
7. Bring in the wood. Wood pieces and those made from artisans are great ways to infuse midcentury modern into a space.
8. Go industrial. Many industrial-style pieces also lend themselves to a midcentury modern design aesthetic.
9. Consider leather. Leather or Naugahyde are durable choices for midcentury modern decor.
10. Be creative with color. Beyond classic colors such as black and white, consider other colors when it comes to leather such as butterscotch or saddle.



(SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/HANDOUT/TNS)
A classic midcentury modern-style dining table and chairs are the highlights of this loft-style kitchen.

Life & Style

Eurovision Song Contest is back, ready to defy the pandemic

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands (AP)—Pounding beats? Check. Uplifting lyrics? Check. Huge, backlit white wings? Check.

After last year's Eurovision Song Contest was canceled amid the global COVID-19 pandemic, it is roaring back to life this year with coronavirus bubbles added to its heady mix of music and melodrama.

National delegations traveling to the Dutch port city of Rotterdam are abiding by strict measures to reduce the risk of infections, while the thousands of fans allowed to attend dress rehearsals, two semifinals and the grand final on Saturday will have to undergo testing to ensure they do not bring the virus into the cavernous venue.

Executive producer Sietse Bakker is glad it's going ahead at all.

"Organizing the Eurovision Song Contest is always challenging because you have less than a year to organize one of the biggest and most complex events in Europe, but to do it in a pandemic is much, much more complicated," he told

The Associated Press.

Despite the pandemic measures, the contest that aims to unite Europe in song is continuing its 65-year tradition of upbeat fun.

Fans near the Ahoy arena can get into the swing of the event early. Traffic lights at a pedestrian walkway outside the venue have been transformed so that a green figure dances to Abba's iconic 1974 winning song "Waterloo" when it's safe to cross.

The immensely popular event mixes high camp—at rehearsals, Norway's Andreas Haukeland, known as TIX, performed his song "Fallen Angel" in huge white wings—with lyrics encouraging inclusion and positivity while avoiding political messages.

Belarus was booted out before the contest even started because organizers the European Broadcasting Union said the country's original song "puts the nonpolitical nature of the Contest in question." A replacement song also was rejected.

The theme for this year's



AP
In this photo taken on May 12, 2021, Cyprus' performer Elena Tsagrinou rehearses her song 'El Diablo' at the Eurovision Song Contest at Ahoy arena in Rotterdam, Netherlands.

other and that we feel the possibility to open up to one another, to show our true feelings, emotions and thoughts," Bakker said.

The 2019 Dutch winner, Duncan Laurence, says on the event's website that he sees music as a way of forging links. "That's why we need the Eurovision Song Contest. To feel connected again."

Thousands of fans will be able to make the connection in person.

Eurovision Song Contest is "Open up." It was actually chosen before the pandemic derailed public life around the

globe, but is now very apt as Europe begins to tentatively emerge from the coronavirus pandemic.

"We decided to keep the theme because, especially in these times, it's important that we are open towards each

Philip Roth biography, pulled last month, has new publisher

NEW YORK (AP)—A long-awaited book about Philip Roth that was pulled last month amid allegations of sexual assault and harassment against biographer Blake Bailey has a new publisher.

Skyhorse Publishing told The Associated Press on Monday that it will have "Philip Roth: The Biography" available in paperback June 15, and hopes to

have the e-book and audio editions ready by Wednesday.

Bailey's 900-page biography was begun in 2012 and written with the participation of Roth, who died in 2018. Released in early April by W.W. Norton & Company, "Philip Roth" received mostly positive reviews, although critics for The New York Times and The New Republic found

Bailey too indulgent of Roth's behavior towards women. The book reached the Times best-seller list among others.

But two weeks after publication, reports from the Los Angeles Times, the New Orleans Times-Picayune and The AP among others featured extensive, on-the-record quotes from former students of Bailey while he was a middle-grade

teacher in New Orleans in the 1990s. The students alleged a pattern of inappropriate behavior while he was a teacher, and that he later pursued sexual relationships. Two former students and book publishing executive Valentina Rice have alleged he assaulted them. Rice's account first appeared in The New York Times and was confirmed by Rice to the AP.

Ariana Grande, Dalton Gomez tie the knot

NEW YORK (AP)—Ariana Grande is a newlywed.

A representative for the singer confirmed that she recently married real estate agent Dalton Gomez.

Grande's rep told People that they tied the knot in a small and intimate wedding, where less than 20 people attended. It wasn't clear when the wedding took place.

"The room was so happy and full of love. The couple

and both families couldn't be happier," the rep told People.

Grande, 27, and Gomez, 25, announced their engagement in December. They began dating in January 2020 and quarantined together during the pandemic.

Grande is currently on the pop charts with the hits "34+35," "Positions," "pov" and the "Save Your Tears" remix with The Weeknd. She will work as a coach on "The Voice" in the fall.

Cuomo set to earn \$5M from book on COVID-19 crisis

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo disclosed Monday that he was paid a \$3.1 million advance to write his COVID-19 leadership book last year and under his publishing contract will make another \$2 million on the memoir over the next two years.

That total windfall of more than \$5.1 million further in-

flamed critics who have said it was inappropriate for Cuomo to personally enrich himself with a self-congratulatory book, published just as the state was seeing a deadly resurgence in infections last October.

At least 52,987 people have died of COVID-19 in New York, according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins Uni-

versity of Medicine.

Cuomo, a Democrat, had for months declined to say how much money he made from writing "American Crisis: Leadership Lessons From the COVID-19 Pandemic," published by Crown Publishing Group, a division of Penguin Random House. The book largely recounts the gov-

ernor's once-daily press conferences on the COVID-19 pandemic.

The disclosure of the big payday was made on the day Cuomo's mandatory financial disclosures were due to a state ethics agency. Cuomo also let reporters view a copy of his tax returns, which were also due Monday.

Holiday host ready to ban brother from festivities

DEAR ABBY: My brother "Patrick" and I have known "Bobby" for about 20 years. Patrick is closer friends with him because they live in the same town. Recently, we found out that Bobby's best friend was arrested for child pornography. While Bobby knew nothing about this before the arrest, he still wants to support his friend.

I told Patrick he will no longer be welcome in my home (I host for all the holidays) if he doesn't cut off all contact with Bobby. My brother says I'm being too harsh because you can disapprove of someone's behavior and still be a friend. I think that child pornography is morally and ethically wrong and there is no middle ground here. What do you think? Should Bobby have a seat at our table? (He has no other living family.)

NOT WELCOMED IN THE EAST

DEAR NOT WELCOMED: I do not think you should excommunicate your brother because of something Bobby's friend did. I believe the Bible says that while you can hate the sin, you should still love the sinner, and that is what Bobby is doing. If you wish to check the reference, you may discover you have a copy somewhere in your home. You can review that chapter with your brother at your holiday table.

DEAR ABBY: I am 35, and my boyfriend is 31. We met at

work and moved in together. It has been five years now and still no proposal. I thought we were on the same page, but he just purchased a brand-new muscle car and is only concerned about that, buying new sneakers (he has a sneaker obsession) and making more money. I currently share a rental lease with him and am considering going my separate way in three months, mainly because he is complacent and our relationship has become stagnant. It is going nowhere. Please help.

HOPED FOR MORE IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR HOPED FOR MORE: Getting to know someone takes time. Be glad you have realized this man isn't husband material before you wasted more time waiting for him to mature. Hang in there until the lease is up, then move resolutely on, parting I hope, as "friends."

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to my best friend since I was 15. I am now 50. I have never had an orgasm. I want to experience one so badly that I am willing to cheat. We have talked about our sex life, and how it has not been satisfying for me. Please tell me what I can do.

MISSING IT IN INDIANA

DEAR MISSING: Before looking for sexual fulfill-

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



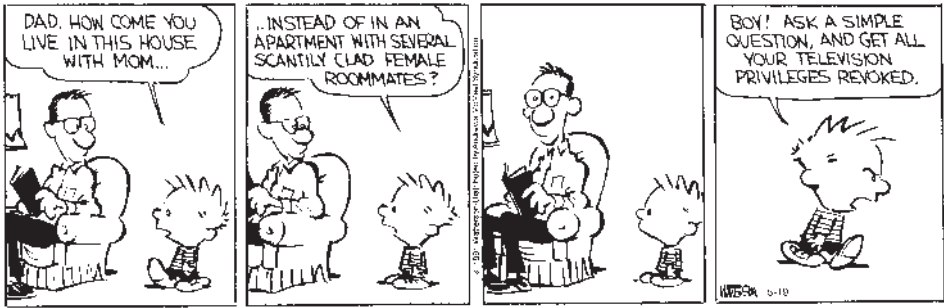
ment outside your marriage, you and your husband should ask your doctor for a referral to a sex therapist. You both married very young, and he may never have learned how to please a woman. This does not mean he isn't capable of learning. Frankly, because you have never experienced an orgasm, YOU may need some coaching or some "pointers."

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

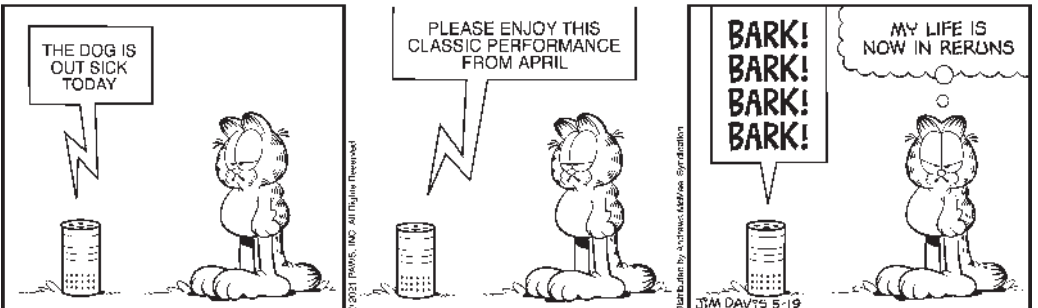
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



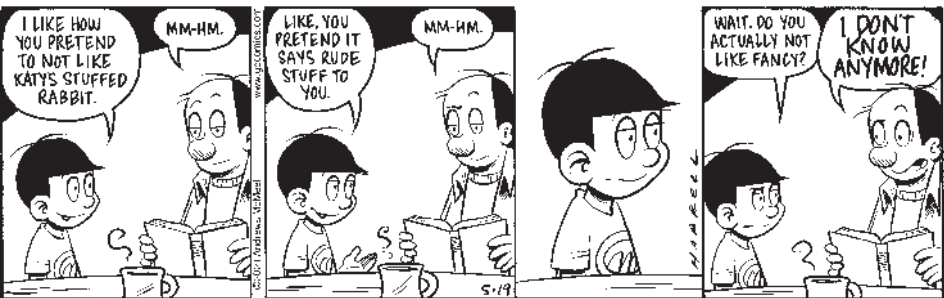
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



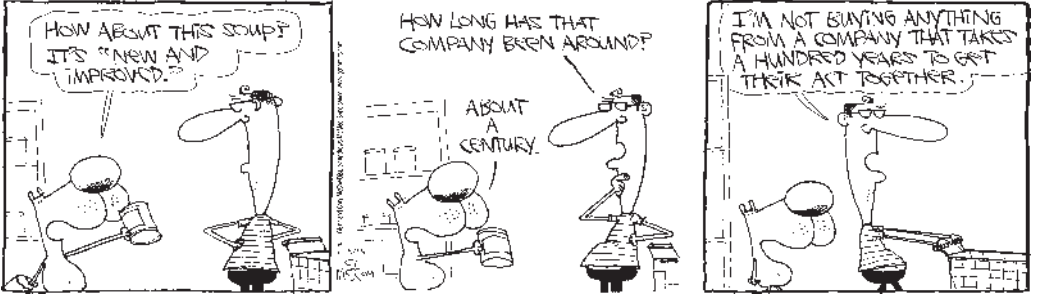
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Calendar abbr.
4 100%
7 Bern's river
8 Alice Walker's "You Can't Keep a Woman Down"
10 Scarecrow stuffing
11 "Coming Soon" ads
13 Pregame festivity
16 QB's gains
17 Does nothing
18 "Chan-delier" singer
19 Battleship color
20 Depend (on)
21 Kingdom
23 Fry lightly
25 Broadway flop
26 Catcher's aid

DOWN

1 Slugger Roger
2 Verbal
3 Zooney Deschanel
4 Concur
5 Belt
6 — Linda, Calif.
7 Slightly
8 In a proper way
9 County on the English Channel
10 Pigs' digs
12 Subway entrance
14 Driver of "Logan Lucky"
15 "Rah!"
19 Talk on and on
20 Boring routine
21 Journalist Farrow
22 Clarke of "Game of Thrones"
23 Unuttered "alas"
24 Disbeliever
25 "Humbug!"
26 Annapolis student
28 Bends out of shape
29 — Holmes (Sherlock's sleuthing sister)
30 "The Sopranos" restaurateur
31 Goblet feature
32 Neighbor of Leb.
34 Madame Bovary
35 "Puppy Love" singer

Solution time: 23 mins.

A	F	R	O	-	M	O	M	A	S
D	I	O	N	Y	O	U	O	S	L
A	C	A	I	M	A	R	A	T	H
M	A	R	C	O	V	S	M	E	E
N	A	S	S	O	L				
M	I	N	S	K	M	A	R	S	A
U	M	P	E	C	D	N	E	W	
M	A	R	T	I	N	A	B	A	N
H	B	C	V	A	L				
S	P	A	R	E	M	A	R	B	L
M	A	R	I	G	O	L	D	E	A
U	R	A	L	A	V	E	R	I	T
T	E	L	L	F	I	R	T	R	E

Yesterday's answer 5-19

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dario Franchitti, 48; Polly Walker, 55; Grace Jones, 73; Pete Townshend, 76.

Happy Birthday: Take your time, gain perspective and proceed judiciously. A constructive approach to whatever you want to pursue this year will help you bypass a costly mistake. Self-control will encourage you to ward off temptation and prompt you to develop more efficient plans. Refuse to let anyone pressure you into something that isn't conducive to reaching your long-term goal. Your numbers are 8, 12, 20, 28, 33, 36, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Concentrate on personal gain, self-improvement and spending time with the people you love. The way you physically approach a project will make a difference to the way it turns out. Give your all, and you'll get the most in return. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A change may excite you, but before you proceed, check what's involved and consider a route that offers less risk/stress. Put your energy where it counts, and keep your emotions out of the mix. Pay attention to hazardous health situations. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Express your thoughts openly and honestly to avoid being left in a vulnerable position. Take control, and use the experience you have along with common sense to navigate your way forward. A disciplined attitude will help you make personal improvements. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Think outside the box. Don't feel tied to old ideas and concepts if you have a better

idea. Expand your interests, mind and awareness. Collaborating with someone just as enthusiastic as you will help you reach your target goal quickly. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Control your emotions. Be realistic and honest about what you can and cannot do. Less talk and more action will make a lasting impression on someone who counts. Set goals, then proceed, regardless of who tags along and who doesn't. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Keep your thoughts and opinions to yourself, and you will accomplish what you set out to do without interference. Stick to what's doable, and don't make promises you can't keep. The time, effort and muscle you put in will bring good results. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Chat about your dreams, hopes and wishes, and embrace the future with bright eyes and an open heart. Peace, love and understanding will get you much further than using force or making demands. Set goals and head to the finish line. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Express your feelings. Find out where you stand, and make changes that will encourage you to follow the path that will bring you happiness and peace of mind. Clear up unfinished business, and move forward with anticipation. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Emotional matters will spin out of control. Say less, observe more and don't get involved in other people's business, or you will turn into a scapegoat. Focus on personal gains, self-improvement and protecting what you've

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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worked so hard to achieve. ★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Keep emotional spending to a minimum. Make changes that encourage you to live within your means to ease the stress caused by unnecessary risks. Concentrate on engaging in activities that aren't costly and bring you closer to someone you love. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Revisit situations that puzzle you, and you'll discover something that will help ease your mind. Discuss your wants and needs with someone who can help you figure out a way to improve your surroundings to excel. Romance is favored. ★★★

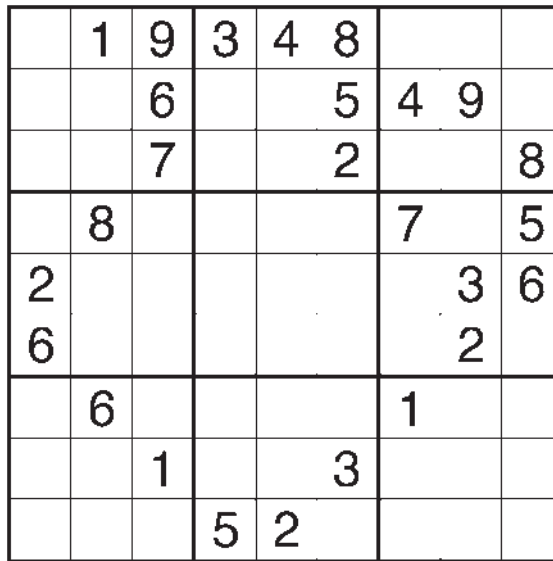
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep life simple, honest and cost-efficient. Don't let anyone talk you into something that isn't in your best interest. Focus on taking better care of yourself emotionally, mentally and physically. Let go of the past and move forward. ★★★

Birthday Baby: You are demonstrative, playful and impatient. You are determined and proactive. ★ Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★ You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★ Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★★ Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★ Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

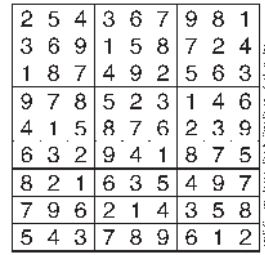
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★
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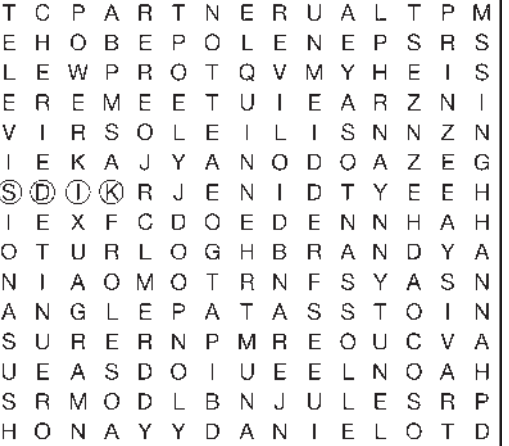
WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

'PUNKY BREWSTER' IS BACK

Solution: 10 letters



© 2021 ArcNews Media Syndication www.wonderword.com 5/19
Adopt, Brandon, Brandy, Bree, Cherie, Copeland, Cottrell, Daniel, Diego, Donzis, Ease, Family, Freddie, Frye, Golden, Hahn, Hannah, Henry, Izzy, Jake, Johnson, Jules, Kids, Lauren, Los Santos, Margaux, Meet, Moon, Name, Noah, Oliver, Pact, Part, Penelope, Power, Prince, Quinn, Reunited, Roles, Ruby, Says, Seen, Sing, Soleil, Soul, Susan, Tape, Television, Travis, Zest
Yesterday's Answer: Hospital
Treasures 22 through 43 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

LeBron vs. Steph: A play-in game will be a superstar tussle

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP BASKETBALL WRITER



LeBron vs. Steph.

Oh, what a way to get into NBA playoff mode.

The matchups for the NBA's new play-in tournament are set. It starts Tuesday night with the Eastern Conference: No. 10 Charlotte at No. 9 Indiana and No. 8 Washington at No. 7 Boston. And things shift to the Western Conference on Wednesday night: No. 10 San Antonio at No. 9 Memphis and No. 8 Golden State at the seventh-seeded Los Angeles Lakers.

LeBron James and Stephen Curry have squared off four times for championships, back in the days of those Warriors-Cleveland matchups in the NBA Finals being annual events. They'll square off Wednesday for a slightly different prize — the No. 7 seed in the West playoffs, but it'll still be a game loaded with hype and intrigue.

"It'll be a different scenario, but another chapter in it," said Curry, the NBA's scoring champion this season for the second time in his career. "At the end of the day, you expect greatness. That's the part I've enjoyed so much about playing in the finals against him ... those games that matter, it just brings out another level of intensity and excitement and a sense of urgency about it, because you know how good you have to play to win games like that."

The Lakers are still the second choice to win the NBA title, according to FanDuel, behind only Brooklyn. And they're the favorites to win the West. Problem is, technically, they're not in the playoffs yet—and they need a win in



the play-in round, Wednesday or Friday if necessary, just to get back to the postseason and have a chance to defend their championship.

James said he considers Curry the MVP of the NBA this season. He's eager to cross paths in a big-time moment with Curry and the Warriors once again, and said he'll take a playoff-game approach to the play-in.

"They've got championship DNA as well," James said. "They've been there. They know what it takes and what it feels like to be in pressure games."

Confidence among the Lakers does not appear to be in short supply. They've been banged up all season, were without James and Anthony Davis for long stretches and might have gotten another

scare when James appeared to tweak his problematic right ankle late in Sunday's finale in New Orleans.

James said afterward that he'll be fine, ready for what comes next. He made headlines a couple of weeks ago when he said the person at the NBA responsible for coming up with the idea of the play-in tournament should be fired. If the Lakers don't win one of their next two games and wind up missing the playoffs, his opinion of the tourney will figure to get worse.

"We're getting healthy at the right time," Lakers veteran Jared Dudley said. "And nobody wants to see a healthy Lakers team."

Under the old system, the Lakers, Warriors, Celtics and Wizards would be in the playoffs. The Grizzlies, Spurs, Pac-

ers and Hornets would be out.

Getting to the No. 8 spot for the play-in round in the East is a massive comeback for the Wizards, who started the season 0-5 and 3-12, were shut down for two weeks in January for coronavirus-related issues, had to play 38 games in the season's final 67 days to make up for lost time and were 17-32 early last month.

They're 17-6 since. The play-in was their path to saving the season.

"I'm with the King, man. Why do they have this play-in thing? Whoever did that, they need to be fired," Washington coach Scott Brooks said, tongue firmly in cheek behind his mask. "No, I'm kidding. I love this. It created so much excitement the last two weeks, and as we all know any time you can create excitement and

meaningful games in the last 10 games of the season it's great for everyone involved."

The 7-8 game winners in each conference go to the playoffs as No. 7 seeds; the West winner will play Phoenix in the first round, the East winner draws a matchup with Brooklyn. The 7-8 game loser will play host to the 9 vs. 10 winner in each conference; whoever prevails there will be the No. 8 seed and meet either Utah—the NBA's overall No. 1 seed—out West or Philadelphia in the East.

But before the playoffs officially begin this weekend, LeBron vs. Steph — a pair of guys who both just happened to be born in Akron, Ohio — looms.

"You're talking about two of the greatest players of all time," Warriors coach Steve

Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (23) celebrates after scoring against the New Orleans Pelicans in the third quarter of an NBA basketball game in New Orleans, Sunday, May 16, 2021.

Kerr said. "Both guys are still playing at such an elite level. And of course, four meetings in the finals is going to create a rivalry. But there's obviously tremendous mutual respect between the two of them."

The other matchups are set: No. 3 Milwaukee faces No. 6 Miami and No. 4 New York plays No. 5 Atlanta in the East quarterfinals, while No. 3 Denver meets No. 6 Portland and the fourth-seeded Los Angeles Clippers drew No. 5 Dallas in the West quarterfinals.

Denver lost to Portland on Sunday, a result that kept the Blazers from the play-in — and kept the Nuggets from seeing the Lakers in Round 1.

"Good strategy," Dudley said.

Boston and the Lakers have the inside track to postseason spots. As the highest-seeded teams in the play-in, they will get two chances if necessary, both at home, to win just one game and make the playoffs.

"You win, you're in. You lose, you're not," Celtics coach Brad Stevens said. "I think that that's something that will add a great deal of intrigue to fans and people are going to be excited about it. But you've got to be appropriately prepared, again, to play a fast game with a clear mind."

The game to decide No. 8 in the East is Thursday, and the one that'll decide No. 8 in the West is Friday. The playoffs start Saturday.

"We're excited that we have the opportunity to keep playing," Kerr said.

tial and wound up winning a championship.

KYRIE'S YEAR

The elite shooters' club now has a new member: Brooklyn's Kyrie Irving.

It's known as the 50-40-90 club: at least 50% shooting from the field, at least 40% from 3-point range, at least 90% from the foul line.

Irving did it this season, at 50.5% from the field, 40.2% on 3's, 92.2% from the line. He's the ninth player in NBA history to join the club — and three of the nine are now associated with the Nets. Brooklyn coach Steve Nash did it four times as a player, and Nets forward Kevin Durant did it once when he was with Oklahoma City.

The others in the club: Larry Bird, Mark Price, Dirk Nowitzki, Reggie Miller, Malcolm **See 10 THINGS on Next Page**

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

The compressed, coronavirus-threatened, NBA regular season like none other is over. All 1,080 games that were scheduled were played, and now the play-in round awaits.

That begins Tuesday, runs through Friday, and the playoffs start Saturday.

Here are 10 notes on the season that was:

TRIPLE DOUBLES

The players who had the second-, third- and fourth-most triple-doubles in the league this season — Nikola Jokic, James Harden and Luka Doncic, respectively — combined for 39 of the stat-sheet-stuffing efforts.

They combined for one more than Russell Westbrook.

Westbrook, the league's all-time triple-double king, had 38

10 things to know, with the NBA regular season in the books

this season. That's the second-most by anyone in any season; Westbrook had 42 in 2016-17. He also has the third-highest (34 in 2018-19) and fourth-highest (25 in 2017-18) triple-double season totals in NBA history.

Consider: Nobody other than Westbrook has ever had more than 22 triple-doubles in a season. He's had 22 of them since March 30.

Leaguewide, Westbrook helped the NBA set a record this season with 142 triple-doubles. The previous league-wide mark was 127, two seasons ago. Over the last five seasons, there have been 594 triple-doubles — basically as many as there were in the previous 16 seasons combined.

MOST 3'S PER GAME

Teams averaged 12.7 3-point-

ers per game this season, a new NBA record for the ninth consecutive year in that department.

Utah finished with a league-record 16.7 made 3's per game. The Jazz made a total of 1,205 3's season, third-most for any season in NBA history. This was a 72-game regular season; if this had been the customary 82-game season, at that pace the Jazz would have made 1,372 3's this season.

The single-season record for a team was set by Houston in 2018-19, when the Rockets made 1,323.

FREE THROW RECORD

For the second consecutive season, the NBA saw a record for free-throw percentage.

NBA players made 77.8% of their free throws this sea-

son, bettering than the mark of 77.3% set last season. It's been a trend for a bit now; of the eight best FT-shooting seasons in NBA history, four have come in the last four years.

Phoenix's Chris Paul was the league leader (among qualified players) in free throw percentage, making 93.4% of his tries. That helped the Suns post the second-best free-throw-shooting season in NBA history, at 83.4%.

The best season ever from the line also came this season: The Los Angeles Clippers are the new record-holder there, after shooting 83.9%.

HOME-COURT DISADVANTAGE

The worst season for home teams in NBA history ended with a 587-493 record—54.4%.

The previous leaguewide low for home winning percentage was 55.1%, set last season.

Utah (31-5) and Philadelphia (29-7) had the best home marks; Oklahoma City (10-26) and Houston (9-27) had the worst.

A GOOD SIGN, SORT OF

Utah finished with the league's best record and, probably not surprisingly, also led the NBA in point differential — outscoring opponents by more than nine points per contest, on average.

The Jazz will have to buck a little trend if they're going to go on and win the NBA title.

Only three teams in the past 12 seasons — San Antonio in 2013-14, then Golden State in 2014-15 and 2016-17 — led the league in point differen-

Ohtani hits MLB-best 13th HR, Trout hurt, Angels top Indians



ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—

Shohei Ohtani hit his major league-leading 13th home run and the Los Angeles Angels defeated the slumping Cleveland Indians 7-4 on Monday night after star outfielder Mike Trout was injured early.

Trout strained his right calf in the first inning. The three-time AL MVP was limping after running to third on an inning-ending popup.

Manager Joe Maddon said Trout was undergoing further evaluation, including an MRI, and the Angels will know more on Tuesday.

"I saw nothing. I looked up and he was limping to the third base bag," Maddon said. "It was kind of innocuous and I had no idea why. It was hurting him pretty good."

Ohtani drove Sam Hentges' fastball well above the strike zone into the seats in right-center during a five-run second to give the Angels a 6-1 lead. The Japanese superstar, who hit the go-ahead homer with two outs in the ninth inning Sunday at Boston, has gone deep in consecutive games twice this season.

"He might have been looking for it. He is covering the whole zone and doing interesting things at the plate," Maddon said. "Just keep watching, it is pretty interesting to watch."

Juan Lagares put the Angels in front earlier in the inning with a two-run double.

Ohtani has six career homers in 12 games against the Indians. That is his second-most against a non-AL West opponent.

Anthony Rendon added three hits for the Angels, who got their 10-game homestand off to a strong start. Tony Watson (2-1), the second of seven Los Angeles pitchers, earned the win and Raisel Iglesias picked up his seventh save.

Cesar Hernandez, Frammil Reyes and Harold Ramirez homered for Cleveland, which has dropped four straight. It was only the second time in 20 games that the Indians lost



AP
Los Angeles Angels' Mike Trout (27) walks back to first base during the first inning of a baseball game against the Cleveland Indians Monday, May 17, 2021, in Los Angeles.

when scoring four or more runs.

Hentges (1-1) allowed six runs and five hits in 1 2/3 innings.

"His command was tough off the bat. I think he ran the count full on the first six hitters. That's a hard way to pitch and be successful," Cleveland manager Terry Francona said.

Four relievers combined to throw 6 1/3 innings for the Indians. They gave up only one run on five hits with nine strikeouts.

Dodgers 3, Diamondbacks 1

In Los Angeles, Albert Pujols delivered an RBI single in his Dodgers debut, and Walker Buehler pitched seven scoreless innings of one-hit ball as Los Angeles topped Arizona.

Pujols went 1 for 4 while playing first base and batting cleanup for the defending World Series champions, who added the 10-time All-Star on Monday after the Los Angeles Angels cut him earlier this month.

After getting loud cheers from the Dodger Stadium crowd and flying out to left in his first at-bat, the 41-year-old Pujols singled off Madison Bumgarner (4-3) to drive in Mookie Betts in the third inning.

Will Smith homered and doubled for the Dodgers, who have won five of six on their

nine-game homestand.

Buehler (2-0) struck out seven and walked four.

Cubs 7, Nationals 3

In Chicago, Willson Contreras, Jason Heyward and Javier Báez homered off Jon Lester in his return to Chicago, and the Cubs beat Washington.

Lester and Kyle Schwarber, two key members of Chicago's 2016 World Series championship team, heard loud cheers all night long in their first game at Wrigley Field against their former team. Contreras put his arm around Schwarber's shoulders before he batted in the first inning, and the catcher gave Lester a brief hug when the pitcher was at the plate in the third.

Schwarber celebrated with a two-run homer into the bleachers in the fourth. Per the custom at Chicago's iconic ballpark—even for old friends like the affable Schwarber—the ball was thrown back onto the field.

In between the standing ovations and cheering for Lester and Schwarber, the Cubs were mostly all business during their third win in four games.

Adbert Alzolay (2-3) pitched five innings of three-run ball in his first win since April 29.

Lester (0-2) allowed five runs and eight hits in 5 1/3 innings.

Rangers 5, Yankees 2

In Arlington, Texas (AP)—Adolis Garcia and Willie Calhoun homered as the Texas Rangers ended a six-game losing streak, beating New York and denying Gerrit Cole's bid to become the American League's first six-game winner.

Cole (5-2) allowed season highs of five runs and seven hits, getting pulled after Garcia led off the sixth with a sharp single on the right-hander's 89th pitch. Cole struck out seven, but also issued two free passes after walking none over his previous five starts.

Garcia hit his 11th home run and later stole home as part of a double steal.

Jordan Lyles (2-3) struck out six in six innings for his first win in eight starts since winning his season debut April 4. Ian Kennedy worked a perfect ninth for his AL-leading 11th save in 11 chances.

Luke Voit, who led the majors in home runs during the pandemic-shortened season, hit his first of the year after recently coming off the injured list.

Mets 3, Braves 1

In Atlanta, pinch-hitter James McCann broke a scoreless tie with a seventh-inning double,

Tomás Nido had three hits and the New York Mets overcame more injuries to beat Atlanta.

With the bases loaded in the seventh, Mets right fielder Kevin Pillar was hit square in the nose by a 95 mph pitch from Jacob Webb, forcing in a run. Pillar was knocked to the ground, and blood poured from his nose when he lifted his head.

After the game, Mets manager Luis Rojas said Pillar was at the hospital getting a CT scan. Pillar then provided an encouraging update on his Twitter account.

"Thanks to everyone that has reached out! Scary moment but I'm doing fine!" he posted.

New York starter Taijuan Walker allowed one hit in three scoreless innings before leaving with left side tightness. Sean Reid-Foley (1-0) did not allow a hit in three shutout innings.

Edwin Díaz walked Freddie Freeman with one out in the ninth before closing out the game for his sixth save.

Braves left-hander Max Fried (1-2) exited after giving up Nido's double to open the seventh. McCann broke the scoreless tie with his double off Webb.

White Sox 16, Twins 4

In Minneapolis, Nick Madrigal had three hits, including his first major league homer, and Danny Mendick launched his first career grand slam as the Chicago White Sox routed struggling Minnesota.

Seven players had multiple hits for Chicago, which posted season highs in hits (18) and runs. The White Sox have won nine of their past 11 games, including four straight wins against Minnesota.

Dallas Keuchel (3-1) was the beneficiary, pitching seven innings and allowing three runs on seven hits.

J.A. Happ (2-2) was roughed up again by the White Sox. Happ permitted six runs in 3 2/3 innings and has given up 15 runs to Chicago in his past two starts. The Twins have lost seven of eight.

Giants 6, Reds 3

In Cincinnati, Logan Webb pitched six shutout innings and San Francisco backed him with three home runs to beat Cincinnati.

Wilmer Flores, Mike Yastrzemski and Mauricio Dubón connected for the NL West-leading Giants.

Webb (3-3) gave up six hits, struck out four and walked a batter. Sonny Gray (0-3) took the loss.

Padres 7, Rockies 0

In San Diego, Yu Darvish struck out 10 in seven brilliant innings and also doubled and scored, and Manny Machado hit a two-run homer as San Diego beat Colorado for its fourth straight win.

The Padres are 6-1 since last Tuesday, when star short-stop Fernando Tatis Jr. tested positive for the coronavirus before a game at Colorado and right fielder Wil Myers and first baseman Eric Hosmer were pulled from the game. A positive test was returned for Myers while Hosmer was put in the contact tracing protocol.

Darvish ((4-1) held Colorado to just four hits and didn't walk a batter. He thrilled the crowd when he doubled into the left-field corner with two outs in the sixth, drawing chants of "YUUUUUUUU!" He raised both arms in the air and pointed skyward after he reached second base.

Jon Gray (4-4) took the loss.

Tigers 4, Mariners 1

In Seattle, Eric Haase hit two home runs, Casey Mize took a two-hit shutout into the eighth inning and Detroit downed Seattle.

The Tigers, who began the day 12 games under .500, have won six of eight. Seattle's three-game winning streak ended.

Mize (3-3) allowed just three hits and permitted only two runners past first base in a career-high 7 2/3 innings. He struck out seven. Michael Fulmer earned the save, his third.

Haase and Jonathan Schoop homered in the second off Yu-sei Kikuchi (1-3).

The idea was player-driven, the Raptors said.

LEADERS

Golden State's Stephen Curry won the scoring title (32.0 per game), Washington's Russell Westbrook won the assists title (11.7), Atlanta's Clint Capela won the rebounding title (14.3), Miami's Jimmy Butler won the steals title (2.1) and Utah's Rudy Gobert won the blocked shot title (2.7).

Players must appear in a certain percentage of games to be eligible for the crowns in those categories.

10 THINGS

From Page 17

Brogdon and Stephen Curry.

BY A BASKET

The Miami Heat finished eight games over .500 — 40-32.

They did so by outscoring opponents this season by a total of two points.

Heat 7,781, Opponents 7,779 was the final tally for the season. That marked the sixth time in NBA history that a team went an entire season and was within two points, one way or another, of the combined score

of their opponents.

The others — the 2000-01 Seattle SuperSonics outscored opponents by two points; the 1955-56 Syracuse Nationals, the 1980-81 Kansas City Kings and the 1980-81 Washington Bullets (yes, same year) outscored opponents by one point over the whole season; and the 1976-77 New York Knicks were outscored by one point.

It wasn't just a Miami thing, either. The Indiana Pacers were outscored by three points this season — one of only nine teams to go through an entire season and

have the margin be that close.

THE 72 CLUB

There were 11 players who appeared in 72 games this season: Denver's Nikola Jokic, Indiana's Justin Holiday, the Los Angeles Clippers' Ivica Zubac, Minnesota's Anthony Edwards, Miami's Duncan Robinson, New York's RJ Barrett, Orlando's Dwayne Bacon, Phoenix's Mikal Bridges, Portland's Enes Kanter and the Utah duo of Bojan Bogdanovic and Georges Niang.

Bridges, Robinson, Jokic, Barrett and Bogdanovic start-

ed all 72 games for their respective teams.

Zubac's "streak" was helped at the end of the season by the Clippers' decision to play him for 3 minutes, 18 seconds in the next-to-last game of the season — and for just 6 seconds in Sunday's finale.

But it counts.

599 DAYS ... AT LEAST

The NBA hasn't said when next season will begin. Based on past years' schedules, a logical opening date would be Oct. 19—though it remains anyone's guess.

The Toronto Raptors last

Colts change offseason schedule by cutting deal with players

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Indianapolis Colts coach Frank Reich is always considering new approaches to finish the job. So this offseason, he made a proposal to starting center Ryan Kelly.

Rather than wait until the traditional three-day mandatory mini-camp in June, Reich and general manager Chris Ballard asked Kelly whether his teammates would be interested in holding light, in-person, voluntary workouts for two weeks and then get eight full weeks off before the start

of training camp. It was almost an instant hit. “We have a four-hour day, we test, work out a couple times a week, we do individual (drills), we run routes in the air, we do walkthroughs against the offense,” Kelly said. “I think this is the best offer I saw out of everybody in the NFL and



it just goes to show the Colts being proactive about health and safety. I think it just makes sense going forward.” Workouts began Monday at the team complex, and while it was unclear if anyone opted out, most opted in. Team officials made four veterans — Kelly, three-time All-Pro left guard Quenton Nelson, All-Pro defensive tackle DeForest Buckner and four-time Pro Bowl receiver T.Y. Hilton available for interviews. All participated.

Reich said new quarterback Carson Wentz also was in town, but sat out Monday because of a non-COVID-19-related illness. Indy hopes to have Wentz on the field Tuesday. Recently signed left tackle Eric Fisher also was at the team complex, but he’s still recovering from a torn left Achilles tendon suffered in January. The traditional offseason format was tossed out last season amid the pandemic, and if players have anything to say about it, the previous workout scheduled may be scrapped for good thanks to the new the 17-game regular-season schedule. What players found out last year, NFLPA president J.C. Tretter wrote on Monday, was that they stayed healthier without all of the offseason team activities. Tretter explained on the union’s website that

the union had been increasingly concerned over the past decade about the intensity of offseason workouts and the pressure to attend practices. He believes last season’s virtual workouts changed the game. “Players felt better, physically and mentally, and the injury data supports those anecdotes,” Tretter wrote. “Our player leaders proposed changes to their teams’ programs (this year), such as shortening the number of weeks of the offseason program and decreasing the number of practices, as well as decreasing intensity by converting practice to walkthroughs and removing 11 v. 11 periods.”

CRUZ

From Page 20

ond gold medal with a time of 13:50. Leani Acosta of Marianas High School took home the silver medal for the event with a time of 13:89 and completing the Top 3 a few seconds later was Erin Frink who came in at 14:21.

Meanwhile, Tiana Cabrera won the gold medal in the 3,000m run, coming out first with a time of 13:07, followed closely by Agape Christian School’s Emma Pang who recorded a time of 13:14. Rounding up the Top 3 was Pang’s schoolmate Eunice Xu who finished at 13:24.

She grabbed her second gold medal in the 1,500m after finishing first with a time of 5:46:3. Eunice Xu placed second in the event for submitting a time of 5:49:34, followed by Emma Pang who made the top three with a time of 6:07:25.

MINI

From Page 20

As of May 12, Babauta said over 1,004 athletes and a couple of hundred technical officials are confirmed to compete in the nine events the CNMI will be hosting which includes athletics, badminton, baseball, beach volleyball, golf, weightlifting, tennis, and va’a (outrigger canoe). “We have invited 24 countries and so far we received

Also winning gold medals last weekend were Cheraline Epity from Tinian Jr./Sr. High School, Maria Rasa from Kagman High School, Soleil Lamar from GCA, Sally Wu and Eunice Wu from ACS, and Leani Acosta from MHS.

Epity took home the gold medal for the shotput event last weekend after recording a distance of 7.95m, followed by Kina Rangamar from MHS who made a throw of 7.50m. Taking third place was Angellyn Roligat from MHS who made a distance of 7.45m.

In the discus event, Rasa placed first after chucking the disc at a distance of 23.40m, followed by silver medal awardee Angellyn Roligat who recorded a distance of 20.50m. Completing the event’s Top 3 was Kina Rangamar who recorded a distance of 17.95m.

GCA’s Soleil Lamar prevailed in the javelin event,

earning herself a gold medal with a distance of 22.31m. Angellyn Roligat took home the silver medal with a distance of 20.84m, followed closely by Maria Rasa who took home the bronze medal with a distance of 20.72m.

Sally Wu was victorious in the long jump with a distance of 4.63m, followed by Soleil Lamar who submitted a distance of 4.47m. Making the Top 3 was Leani Acosta who had recorded distance of 4.30m.

Fellow ACS-goer Eunice Xu topped the 800m race with a time of 2:51:32, followed by Tiana Cabrera who came in at 2:55:97. Completing the Top 3 was Emma Pang who finished at 3:05:06.

Leani Acosta landed first place in the 200m event with a time of 28:90, followed by Sally Wu who submitted a time of 29:22, and earning the Top 3 spot was Tinian’s Cheraline Epity who came in at 29:22.

pect around 1,800 overall. “We are expecting like close to about 1,800, but again we’ll get more confirmation as the months to come. We do have travel restrictions still so we’re being cautious,” he said. Babauta announced the launch date for the Mini Games countdown during a Northern Marianas Sports Association meeting yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

FINAL 2020-2021 NBA LEADERS																	
SCORING AVERAGE																	
	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG												
Curry, GS	63	658	362	2015	32.0	Durant, BKN	85	189	.450	Green, GS	63	558	8.9				
Beal, WAS	60	670	408	1878	31.3	Kennard, LAC	100	224	.446	Paul, PHO	70	622	8.9				
Lillard, POR	67	602	449	1928	28.8	Porter, DEN	170	382	.445	Doncic, DAL	66	567	8.6				
Embiid, PHI	51	461	471	1451	28.5	Payne, PHO	73	166	.440	Jokic, DEN	72	599	8.3				
Antetokounmpo, MIL	61	626	398	1717	28.1	Powell, TOR	118	269	.439	Lillard, POR	67	505	7.5				
Doncic, DAL	66	647	344	1830	27.7	Bogdanovic, ATL	146	333	.438	Morant, MEM	63	465	7.4				
LaVine, CHI	58	569	253	1591	27.4	Jackson, LAC	122	282	.433	Fox, SAC	58	417	7.2				
Williamson, NO	61	634	369	1647	27.0	Bane, MEM	117	271	.432	Butler, MIA	52	369	7.1				
Irving, BKN	54	549	201	1451	26.9	Simons, POR	120	282	.426	DeRozan, SA	61	422	6.9				
Jokic, DEN	72	732	342	1898	26.4	Bridges, PHO	134	315	.425	Simmons, PHI	58	401	6.9				
Mitchell, UTA	53	478	267	1401	26.4	Niang, UTA	124	292	.425	Sabonis, IND	62	415	6.7				
Tatum, BOS	64	605	295	1692	26.4	Brown, HOU	91	215	.423	McConnell, IND	69	456	6.6				
Booker, PHO	67	623	340	1712	25.6	Ellington, DET	116	275	.422	Rubio, MIN	68	433	6.4				
Young, ATL	63	487	484	1594	25.3	Curry, GS	337	801	.421	VanVleet, TOR	52	328	6.3				
Fox, SAC	58	529	300	1461	25.2	LaVine, CHI	200	477	.419	Ball, CHA	51	313	6.1				
Leonard, LAC	52	465	261	1292	24.8	Burks, NY	102	246	.415	Garland, CLE	54	329	6.1				
Brown, BOS	58	538	191	1430	24.7	Hayward, CHA	85	205	.415	Holiday, MIL	59	357	6.1				
Sexton, CLE	60	525	312	1460	24.3	Middleton, MIL	151	365	.414	Conley, UTA	51	305	6.0				
Randle, NY	71	602	348	1712	24.1	Conley, UTA	138	335	.412	Irving, BKN	54	324	6.0				
Ingram, NO	61	513	281	1450	23.8	Green, BKN	103	250	.412	Randle, NY	71	427	6.0				
George, LAC	54	445	198	1259	23.3	Melton, MEM	87	211	.412	Antetokounmpo, MIL	61	357	5.9				
Grant, DET	54	400	290	1205	22.3	George, LAC	171	416	.411	Brogdon, IND	56	329	5.9				
Westbrook, WAS	65	544	271	1445	22.2	Pritchard, BOS	102	248	.411	Curry, GS	63	363	5.8				
DeRozan, SA	61	455	387	1316	21.6	Randle, NY	160	389	.411	Schroder, LAL	61	351	5.8				
Butler, MIA	52	366	359	1116	21.5	FREE THROW PERCENTAGE											
Siakam, TOR	56	437	249	1196	21.4		FT	FTA	PCT								
Brogdon, IND	56	444	153	1186	21.2	Paul, PHO	169	181	.934	Graham, CHA	55	295	5.4				
Middleton, MIL	68	511	212	1385	20.4	Lillard, POR	449	484	.928	Middleton, MIL	68	370	5.4				
Rozier, CHA	69	510	165	1407	20.4	Gallinari, ATL	161	174	.925	STEALS PER GAME							
Sabonis, IND	62	484	240	1260	20.3	Irving, BKN	201	218	.922		G	STL	AVG				
VanVleet, TOR	52	338	169	1019	19.6	Curry, GS	362	395	.916	Butler, MIA	52	108	2.08				
Harris, PHI	62	473	182	1210	19.5	White, CHI	128	142	.901	McConnell, IND	69	128	1.86				
Edwards, MIN	72	505	211	1392	19.3	Walker, BOS	134	149	.899	Green, GS	63	105	1.67				
Morant, MEM	63	430	271	1204	19.1	Middleton, MIL	212	236	.898	VanVleet, TOR	52	87	1.67				
Porter, DEN	61	443	106	1162	19.0	Clarkson, UTA	129	144	.896	Holiday, MIL	59	96	1.63				
Adebayo, MIA	64	456	283	1197	18.7	Harris, PHI	182	204	.892	Thybulle, PHI	65	105	1.62				
Wiggins, GS	71	505	170	1320	18.6	Quickley, NY	155	174	.891	Simmons, PHI	58	93	1.6				
Clarkson, UTA	68	457	129	1251	18.4	Anthony, POR	137	154	.890	Ball, CHA	51	81	1.59				
Holiday, MIL	59	414	107	1046	17.7	Beal, WAS	408	459	.889	Leonard, LAC	52	81	1.56				
Barrett, NY	72	467	206	1264	17.6	Young, ATL	484	546	.886	Murray, SA	67	101	1.51				
Collins, ATL	63	429	170	1111	17.6	Leonard, LAC	261	295	.885	Fox, SAC	58	87	1.5				
Garland, CLE	54	362	112	941	17.4	VanVleet, TOR	169	191	.885	Ball, NO	55	82	1.49				
Brooks, MEM	67	432	159	1151	17.2	Durant, BKN	210	238	.882	Covington, POR	70	101	1.44				
Valanciunas, MEM	62	440	157	1058	17.1	DeRozan, SA	387	440	.880	Rubio, MIN	68	98	1.44				
Bogdanovic, UTA	72	406	233	1225	17.0	Bogdanovic, UTA	233	265	.879	Irving, BKN	54	76	1.41				
Hardaway, DAL	70	407	142	1163	16.6	Ingram, NO	281	320	.878	Paul, PHO	70	99	1.41				
Hield, SAC	71	403	88	1176	16.6	Lowry, TOR	140	160	.875	Conley, UTA	51	70	1.37				
Paul, PHO	70	439	169	1149	16.4	Ross, ORL	120	138	.870	Westbrook, WAS	65	89	1.37				
Conley, UTA	51	284	121	827	16.2	Murray, DEN	133	153	.869	Green, PHI	69	92	1.33				
Barnes, SAC	58	319	195	933	16.1	George, LAC	198	228	.868	Haliburton, SAC	58	77	1.33				
FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE						Jokic, DEN	342	394	.868	Jokic, DEN	72	95	1.32				
	FG	FGA	PCT			Tatum, BOS	295	340	.868	Rozier, CHA	69	87	1.26				
Gobert, UTA	391	579	.675			Booker, PHO	340	392	.867	Brown, BOS	58	72	1.24				
Holmes, SAC	366	575	.637			Rubio, MIN	130	150	.867	Sabonis, IND	62	76	1.23				
Lopez, WAS	269	425	.633			Powell, TOR	141	163	.865	Anderson, MEM	69	84	1.22				
Ayton, PHO	430	687	.626			Brogdon, IND	153	177	.864	Campazzo, DEN	65	79	1.22				
Harrell, LAL	375	603	.622			REBOUNDS PER GAME					Curry, GS	63	77	1.22			
Poeltl, SA	265	430	.616				G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG	Garland, CLE	54	66	1.22		
Williamson, NO	634	1037	.611			Capela, ATL	63	297	606	903	14.33	Tate, HOU	70	85	1.21		
Kanter, POR	339	561	.604			Gobert, UTA	71	240	720	960	13.52	Huerter, ATL	69	82	1.19		
Capela, ATL	413	695	.594			Valanciunas, MEM	62	253	523	776	12.52	BLOCKS PER GAME					
Valanciunas, MEM	440	743	.592			Sabonis, IND	62	150	592	742	11.97		G	BLK	AVG		
Adebayo, MIA	456	800	.570			Westbrook, WAS	65	109	641	750	11.54	Gobert, UTA	71	190	2.68		
Antetokounmpo, MIL	626	1100	.569			Kanter, POR	72	284	511	795	11.04	Noel, NY	64	141	2.2		
Jokic, DEN	732	1293	.566			Antetokounmpo, MIL	61	97	574	671	11.0	Capela, ATL	63	129	2.05		
McConnell, IND	274	490	.559			Jokic, DEN	72	205	575	780	10.83	Boucher, TOR	60	111	1.85		
Young, CHI	370	662	.559			Embiid, PHI	51	113	426	539	10.57	Poeltl, SA	69	123	1.78		
Simmons, PHI	325	583	.557			Ayton, PHO	69	228	499	727	10.54	Williams, BOS	52	91	1.75		
Collins, ATL	429	771	.556			Randle, NY	71	84	639	723	10.18	Holmes, SAC	61	96	1.57		
Bridges, PHO	363	669	.543			Allen, CLE	51	158	348	506	9.92	Lopez, MIL	70	103	1.47		
Porter, DEN	443	817	.542			Plumlee, DET	56	145	374	519	9.27	Allen, CLE	51	71	1.39		
Durant, BKN	324	603	.537			Adebayo, MIA	64	142	431	573	8.95	Embiid, PHI	51	69	1.35		
Sabonis, IND	484	904	.535			Adams, NO	58	213	301	514	8.86	Stewart, DET	68	86	1.26		
McDermott, IND	354	665	.532			Howard, PHI	69	190	390	580	8.41	Washington, CHA	64	79	1.23		
Brunson, DAL	328	627	.523			Holmes, SAC	61	144	360	504	8.26	Antetokounmpo, MIL	61	73	1.2		
Portis, MIL	313	598	.523			Thompson, BOS	54	169	270	439	8.13	Covington, POR	70	84	1.2		
Reid, MIN	304	581	.523			Doncic, DAL	66	54	473	527	7.98	Ayton, PHO	69	81	1.17		
Boucher, TOR	288	560	.514			Poeltl, SA	69	219	328	547	7.93	Jordan, BKN	57	65	1.14		
Wood, HOU	329	640	.514			Jordan, BKN	57	117	310	427	7.49	Bijombo, CHA	66	74	1.12		
Embiid, PHI	461	899	.513			Collins, ATL	63	118	349	467	7.41	Gasol, LAL	52	58	1.12		
James, LAL	422	823	.513			Tatum, BOS	64	50	422	472	7.38	Reid, MIN	70	76	1.09		
Harris, PHI	473	924	.512			Porter, DEN	61	91	354	445	7.3	Thybulle, PHI	65	71	1.09		
3-POINT FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE						Siakam, TOR	56	95	310	405	7.23	Grant, DET	54	58	1.07		
	3FG	3FGA	PCT			Williamson, NO	61	167	274	441	7.23	Adebayo, MIA	64	66	1.03		
Harris, BKN	211	444	.475			Zubac, LAC	72	189	330	519	7.21	Len, WAS	57	58	1.02		
Morris, LAC	140	296	.473			Bazley, OKC	55	51	345	396	7.2	Collins, ATL	63	63	1.0		
Portis, MIL	74	157	.471			Simmons, PHI	58	93	324	417	7.19	Favors, UTA	68	68	1.0		
Forbes, MIL	154	341	.452			Green, GS	63	55	394	449	7.13	Wiggins, GS	71	70	0.99		
Ingles, UTA	183	406	.451			ASSISTS PER GAME					McDaniels, MIN	63	60	0.95			
Curry, PHI	126	280	.450				G	AST	AVG		Jones, POR	58	54	0.93			
						Westbrook, WAS	65	763	11.7		Valanciunas, MEM	62	57	0.92			
						Young, ATL	63	594	9.4		Eubanks, SA	54	49	0.91			
						BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS											



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Countdown to Mini Games begins

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee has announced the official launch date commemorating the start of the countdown for the 2022 Pacific Mini Games that will be hosted by the CNMI.

According to Ben Babauta, Mini Games Organizing Committee CEO, the launch will feature the official unveiling of the Mini Games logo, and the committee will officially start the timer for 365 days until the opening day of the event on June 17, 2021. That's exactly a year before the start



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
The Pacific Mini Games Organizing committee discusses the upcoming launch day commemorating the start of the countdown to Pacific Mini Games 2022 that will be hosted by the CNMI.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Saipan Southern High School's Casey Cruz and Saipan International School's Tiana Cabrera dominated multiple events in the girls 18U division of the 2021 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Athletics Championships that concluded last weekend at the Oleai Track and Field.

Cruz and Cabrera each dominated two of 10 individual events with Cruz coming out victorious in the 400m and 100m, while Cabrera took gold medals in the 3,000m and 1,500m events.

During the 400m event, the Lady Manta Ray defeated foes with a time of 1:09:95 to gain her first gold medal, followed by Cabrera who finished at 1:12:36 to take home silver. Completing the Top 3 was Grace Christian Academy's Soleil Lamar who came in third in less than a second, 1:12:99.



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KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Saipan Southern High School's Casey Cruz poses for a photo with her gold medal that she earned from the girls 18U 100m event last weekend during the 2021 PSS/McDonalds All Schools Athletics Championships at the Oleai Track and Field. From left, Leani Acosta from Marianas High School, Cruz, and Erin Frink from Mount Carmel School.

Cruz, Cabrera top multiple events



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan International School's Tiana Cabrera poses for a photo with her gold medal that she earned from the girls 18U 3,000m event last weekend during the 2021 PSS/McDonalds All Schools Athletics Championships at the Oleai Track and Field. From left, Agape Christian School's Eunice Xu, Cabrera, and ACS' Emma Pang.

Later in the 100m event, Cruz edged out her competitors by less than a second and gained her second



of the quadrennial event the Commonwealth will be hosting for the very first time.

"For the launch, we will be unveiling our logo, and officially kick off one year. It is quite exciting as we also gear up our facility to be in compliance and game-ready for these athletes, top level athletes coming to the Northern Mariana Islands," he said.

Babauta said the reason for the launch is to also excite the community as preparations start for the big event because not only is it the CNMI's first time hosting such a large-scale event, it also commemorates the CNMI reopening its bor-

ders to international athletes and visitors since COVID-19 hit over a year ago.

"So, it's quite exciting for Saipan to host this Mini Games. It's an opportunity for both the community to experience this first-class event

and it is also an opportunity for the businesses to avail of new sports tourism. Lastly, it will feature our culture on island," he said.

The Pacific Mini Games, which will be held next year from June 17 to June 25, 2022, expects to invite athletes from 24 countries.

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TanHoldings to host Cycling Classic

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

TanHoldings and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation will host a 20K 2021 Marpi Cycling Classic this month and it will be open to all employees and their immediate family members.

The Cycling Classic is set for May 30 and will start from Banzai Cliff to Saipan Ice & Water Co. and back.

Check in for the event will begin at 6am with the gun time at 6:30am. Interested individu-

als must register prior to the event at <http://bit.ly/mcc2021> register or you can visit the Tan Siu Lin Foundation office along beach road. Registration for the event closes on May 27. The first 100 registered cyclists will get a free cycling jersey.

Categories individuals can sign up for include male, female, road bike, and mountain bike and age division starting from 19 and over and medals will be awarded to the Top 3 finishers for each category and division.

